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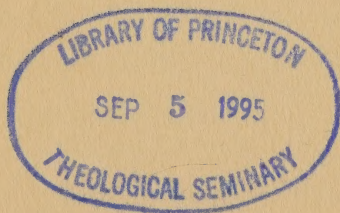
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THE MINISTER'S BOOK OF PRAYERS

THE MINISTER'S BOOK OF PRAYERS

Edited by
CHARLES CARROLL ALBERTSON



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Foreword

NO PART of a pastor's public ministry is more important than his prayers—his invocations, his offertory, and pastoral prayers. The form and content of them go far in determining the spiritual atmosphere of the service. Not a few people have said to their pastors, "We thank you for your prayers this morning,—you must have had us in mind." A transient worshiper in Trinity Church, Chicago, many years ago, sought a moment's conversation with the minister at the close of the service. He said, "I must tell you how your prayer at the beginning of the service touched me. I was lonely and depressed, but when you prayed 'for the stranger within our gates and for his family and friends from whom he is absent,' it was as though the sun had broken through the clouds on a dark day."

It is the testimony of many members of a certain New York City congregation that they derive as much spiritual help from their pastor's prayers as from his sermons—and he is a noble preacher of the Word.

There is an Eastern theological seminary in which the professor of homiletics emphasizes the vital importance of the minister's preparation of—and for—his public prayers. He urges his students to familiarize their minds with the phraseology of the great collections of prayers, liturgistic and independent. He reminds them that the historic rituals are a part

of the heritage of the church at large, as also are the published prayers of preachers whose sermons are a vitally important part of Christian literature.

An increasing number of the younger generation of ministers, even in non-liturgical churches, are aware of the desirability as well as the possibility of the enrichment of public worship by the improvement of the *technique* of public prayer. We are in no danger of sacrificing the spirit of free worship when we seek to add dignity and beauty to the service.

I acknowledge my indebtedness in the making of this collection of prayers to many sources, and especially to the following:

The Book of Common Prayer.

The Book of Common Worship.

A Book of Offices and Prayers. (Compiled by two presbyters of the Church; published by Edwin S. Gorham, New York.)

Directory and Forms for Public Worship. (Issued by the Church Worship Association of the United Free Church of Scotland, Edinburgh.)

A Book of Prayers Written for Use in an Indian College. (Published by The Challenge, Ltd., London.)

The Temple, A Book of Prayers, by the Rev. W. E. Orchard, D.D. (Published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London.)

Prayers, by James Robertson Cameron. (Published by Gowans & Gray, Ltd., London and Glasgow.)

A Chain of Prayer Across the Ages, Compiled and arranged by S. E. Fox, M.D. (Published by John Murray, London.)

Prayers and Reflections of a Modern Disciple. Charles Carroll Albertson. (Published by Samuel Bagster & Sons, Ltd., London.)

Published volumes of Pulpit Prayers by Joseph Parker (People's Bible) Henry Ward Beecher, Bishop William A. Quayle, Frank W. Gunsaulus.

A Veteran Pastor's Prayers, used by permission of *The Sunday School Times*, Philadelphia.

I

Invocations

O THOU who are at once the Sky out of which and the Sea into which the little streams of our lives flow, our hearts rise towards Thee, our thoughts are lifted up, our eyes turn to Thee. As servants look unto their masters, as children look unto their parents, so do we look unto Thee. Look Thou upon us in pity and in love. Forgive our dimness of vision, our wavering purposes, our imperfect behavior. At this, the throne of grace, may all our fears and doubts be dispelled and may our faith be strengthened while we wait upon Thee, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

WE HAVE heard the bells calling us to worship; now may we hear the still, small Voice, bidding us welcome to the place of prayer. Silence all the misgivings of our hearts with the assurance of Thy forgiveness and Thy peace. Speak to us the word we most need to hear. Strengthen us when we falter, restrain us when we are rash, lift us when we fall, feed us with the bread of heaven, set our feet in the straight path, and bring us to abundant life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

OUR FATHER and our God, we have heard Thy voice whispering, What is it? and What is thy re-

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quest? This is our desire and our request: Give us the faith that believes against present apparent facts; that hopes in spite of existing clouds; that bears, notwithstanding daily disappointments and endures the endless strain of labor and of waiting. Grant us this gift, we pray, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

O God, Light of all that is true, Strength of all that is good, Glory of all that is beautiful, we lift our eyes from the swiftly moving scenes about us by which we are often confused, that we may see again the wisdom and power and love sufficient for all our necessities. Enable us, we pray Thee, to walk in the Light, to share in the Wisdom, to rest upon the Love that we may be ready to play our part in the life of our times. Help us to think truly, to act kindly, to love wisely, that we may leave the world better for our having lived. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY GOD, from whom every good prayer cometh, and who pourest out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace and supplication; deliver us, when we draw nigh to Thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind; that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship Thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HEAVENLY Father, we commend ourselves to Thee this day. Be with us, we beseech Thee, in prayer, to quicken our devotion; in praises, to heighten our love and gratitude; keep us from all wandering thoughts; fill our memory with the words of Thy law, and enlighten our understanding with the il-

lumination of the Holy Spirit. Remember in mercy all who are hindered from coming to Thy house, or who are deprived of the means of grace. Bless and teach all those who this day give themselves to the instruction of the young or ignorant, and grant to us and Thy whole church that at length, with all Thy faithful servants departed, we may enter into that rest which remaineth for Thy people. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LORD, our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keepest covenant and promises with those that love Thee with their whole heart; who art the life of all, the help of those that flee unto Thee, the hope of those who cry unto Thee, cleanse us from our sins, secret and open, and from every thought displeasing to Thy goodness,—cleanse our bodies and souls, our hearts and consciences, that with a pure heart and a clear soul, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto Thee. *Amen.*

(From "A Book of Offices and Prayers.")

ETERNAL GOD, who hast neither dawn nor evening, yet sendest us alternate mercies of the darkness and the day; there is no light but Thine, without, within. As Thou liftest the curtain of night from our abodes, take also the veil from all our hearts.

Rise with Thy morning upon our souls; quicken all our labor and our prayer; and though all else declines, let the noontide of Thy grace and peace remain. May we walk, while it is yet day, in the steps of Him who, with fewest hours, finished Thy divinest work. *Amen.*

(James Martineau.)

How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God; therefore do the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. Satisfy us now, we beseech Thee, with the goodness of Thy house. In Thy light make us to see light. Grant that Thy Holy Spirit may be with us in prayer and praise, in speaking and in hearing from Thy holy Word. And do Thou bless us with all spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ, for His Name's sake. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY and Eternal God, teach us to worship Thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Take away all blindness of mind, and all coldness of heart. Open Thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth Thy praise. Open our hearts to receive Thy truth in the love of it, and may Christ Jesus be glorified this day in all the services of His house. This we ask in His Name. *Amen.*

O THOU who slumberest not nor sleepest, we bless Thee that Thou hast watched over us during the night that is past, and brought us this day into Thy house of prayer. Be in the midst of us, we humbly beseech Thee; and grant us such a vision of Thy glory as shall constrain us to say, This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!

We ask all in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD God, who lovest the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob, and who art ever nigh to them who call upon Thee, be merciful unto us and bless us, and make us joyful in Thy house of prayer. Be pleased to shed down Thy Holy Spirit

on all who are here assembled, that, being cleansed from sin, and illumined by Thy grace, we may worthily show forth Thy praise, meekly learn Thy Word, render due thanks for Thy mercies, and obtain a gracious answer to our prayers, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, we bless Thee that Thou hast turned the shadow of night into the morning, and caused the dayspring to know its place. Let Thy blessing rest upon us, we entreat Thee, in all the services of this day. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit. Hush within us every vain regret and every earthly passion. Raise our spirits to Thyself, and bestow upon us all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(From A Directory and Forms for Public Worship,
United Free Church of Scotland.)

O LORD, Jesus Christ, grant that we may so seek Thee whom our souls desire to love, that we may both find Thee and be found of Thee. May such love and wisdom accompany the words which shall be spoken in Thy Name, that they may not fall to the ground, but bring many unto life in Thee, and to Thy Name be the glory. *Amen.*

O LORD, who hast taught us that where Thy faithful people are, there art Thou in the midst of them; be present, we pray Thee, in Thy Church's worship, that our prayer and praise may be in Thy name and that all men may know that our fellowship is with the Father and Thee, His only Son, to whom, in the

unity of the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, Teacher and Comforter, Saviour and Friend of the soul, be pleased to visit us with Thy grace, that we may worship Thee now with humble, sincere, and reverent hearts. By Thy Spirit do Thou mercifully aid us in our approach unto Thee. Fill the hearts of us Thy faithful people with a fresh and living sense of our debt to Thy dear Son; kindle in them the fire that shall answer Thy love to men, and make our service glad and free and acceptable in Thy sight.

Help us to make this day holy unto Thee, a time of the recovery of the quiet heart and the childlike spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD our God, who hast bidden the light to shine out of darkness, who hast again wakened us to praise Thy goodness and ask for Thy grace: accept Thou, in Thy endless mercy, the sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant unto us all such requests as may be wholesome for us. Make us to be children of the light and of the day, and heirs of Thy everlasting inheritance. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, Thy whole church; all who join with us in prayer; all our brethren by land or sea, or wherever they may be in Thy vast kingdom, who stand in need of Thy grace and succor. Pour out upon them the riches of Thy mercy, so that we, redeemed in soul and body, and steadfast in faith, may ever praise Thy wonderful and holy Name. *Amen.*

(From Manual of Prayers of the Greek Church.)

HELP us, this day, O Father God, to lift our eyes above the earth and see the uses of Thy Word. Forbid that we should be blind in a world of beauty and deaf in a world of harmony; for Thy Name's sake. *Amen.*

WE HAVE come here to meditate upon Thy Word, to contemplate Thy boundless goodness and our almost boundless need; let not our contemplation divert us from duty, and let not our activity prevent our spiritual meditation, we ask in Christ's own Name. *Amen.*

O God, grant us, Thy servants, this day, the vivid memory of Thy comfort in the hours of our need in other times. Give us courage amidst the tempests of the changing years. Save us from the unfaith of vagrant moments. Deliver us from the dominion of fear, for we are Thy children through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

II

Offertory Prayers

TEACH us, O God, how to glorify Thee in our offerings, and how to enrich the life of the world with the overflow of goodness from the cup of blessing which Thou hast filled so bountifully. And this we ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

TAKE Thou what we here offer, O God, and may it be multiplied, as was the bread when He blessed and brake it who was Himself the Bread of Life. Multiply that portion of our goods which we retain for our own use if Thou seest we may be trusted as Thy stewards. Our prayer is in the Master's Name. *Amen.*

How gladly, O Lord, would we have shared with Thee, in the days of Thy flesh, our homes, our tables, our goods! Teach us that now Thou needest us and our gifts. May we be willing and timely contributors to the Church of God and to all other good causes, for the glory of His Name. *Amen.*

O LORD, Who hast taught us that Thou wilt require much from those to whom much is given, grant that we whom Thou hast called to so goodly a heritage, may extend more abundantly to others

what we so richly enjoy, and in serving them may know the glory of serving Thee. *Amen.*

WE BRING Thee these gifts, our Father. They were all Thine before we called them ours. All things come from Thee. Thou hast the sovereign right to command them. Thou hast commanded our strength. We yield obedience to Thy perfect will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

WE PRAY for the coming of Thy kingdom. Grant us grace to prove the sincerity of our prayers. In vain are all our petitions if our hearts and hands do not translate them into deeds. We are Thy friends if we do what Thou commandest. We offer Thee our gifts of friendship. This is our reasonable service. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

O God, whose we are and whom we serve, grant, we pray, that these offerings may have both the nature and value of worship. Our prayers, our hymns, our songs, our hearing of Thy Word, our very silence in meditation are parts of our worship, shall we not praise Thee also with our gifts? We offer them in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

BY THE promised and certain blessedness of giving, teach us, our Father and our God, how high and holy is our calling to share our wealth with Thee and with those who are building the Kingdom of God in the world. Thou art the Boundless Giver and the Present God. *Amen.*

GIVE sight to any who may be blinded by luxury

and deliverance to any who may be bound by want, that the rich may be rich in good works and the poor may have the inheritance of those who abound in faith, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

TEACH us, our Father, how life is sweetened, as a fountain is sweetened, by the outflow of its treasures. We remember the warning in Thy Word, "There is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." By the witness of our words, by the friendliness of our hands, by the loyalty of our devotion and the zeal of our service may we enter into fellowship with faithful souls in all ages who have labored for the coming of Thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

WHAT shall we render unto Thee, O Lord, our God, for all Thy benefits? We call upon our souls to forget not that goodness and mercy have followed us all our days. We will take the cup of salvation and call upon Thee in the presence of Thy people. We will pay our vows now unto Thee. Grant us the grace of generous giving, for the glory of Thy name. *Amen.*

WE PRAISE Thee, O Lord, from whom all blessings come. Great has been Thy mercy toward us. Great may be our response, our gratitude; may no appeal for our help in meeting the need of the world for Christ fall upon dull or unheeding ears. Inspire us to generous service in His name. *Amen.*

TEACH us, O Lord, to follow our gifts with prayer for Thy blessing upon them in their use. In vain is

all our labor if the Lord be not the Builder of the house. We are workers together with Thee. Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants and the glory of it unto their children. We ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

OUR God and Father, as Thou givest us power to accumulate, so give us wisdom to distribute. Managing our affairs with diligence, showing mercy cheerfully, may we give liberally, knowing that Thou standest over against the treasury to mark the fidelity of Thy servants. Save us from the peril of careless giving. What we do, we do as unto Thee. In the name of Christ. *Amen.*

THE earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. And we are His. Do what Thou wilt with Thine own. Naught would we withhold. As the Master withheld nothing that was His from a world that needed all His goodness and all His grace, so may we follow Him in self-denial. Thus would we prove ourselves His disciples. We ask it in His name. *Amen.*

TEACH us, O God, that all true wealth consists in the capacity to minister to others. May our lives be abundant in the things of the spirit—in love and sympathy, and in a well-founded hope for the coming of Thy kingdom. Our prayers with our gifts we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

WHAT we have given to Thee, our Lord, we have never lost. What we have given in Thy name is secure for us in Thy remembrance. We have been

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entrusted with many gifts; now and always may we be trustworthy stewards, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

O THOU who weighest the motives of men, grant that we may be moved by remembrance of Thy mercies to generous deeds for the greater glory of Thy Name. *Amen.*

III

Pulpit Prayers

O GOD who art forever near us, though we see Thee not, and forever giving, though we may not ask, grant us that inward vision by which we may apprehend Thy presence and that open heart which receives Thy grace.

For all Thy goodness which prepares the way for our feet, that they may not stumble, and for Thy guiding hand along the path of our pilgrimage, we thank Thee. For the beauty and bounty of the world, for the patient love of our parents and teachers, for the loyalty of our friends, for all the inspiration we receive from books and music, for the comforts of home, for the helpful influences of public worship, for the high hopes kindled within our souls in moments of inspiration and for the assurance of immortality in fellowship with Christ, we give Thee thanks.

Before Thee, here and now, we would examine our motives and correct them wherein they are misled by our selfish desires. We would lament our mistakes of judgment and our dimness of vision, the doubts and fears which dishonor Thee and disqualify us for efficient service. Lift us, we pray, above the plane whereon we have been altogether too willing to live. In Thy light may we see light.

Behold us here before Thee, representing many widely scattered families. Send Thy blessing of peace and quietness to those in trouble, Thy comfort to those bereft. Thou wilt not leave our treasures in the dust. Those whom we love, Thou, too, lovest, the very young, the weary bearer of heavy burdens, the aged whose steps go down into the valley of shadow. Shadows are for us, but if we walk with Thee, at evening time it shall be light.

If any are struggling to rid themselves of habits of thought or action which hurt their souls, speak the word of freedom. If any are beset by temptation that seems too strong for them, send deliverance. May their wills be fortified in the comradeship of the Christ who was tempted in all points yet victorious.

For Thy servants who minister in the things of the spirit, wherever they may be; for those who teach, for those who heal and nurse the sick, for those whose hands are busy with the common tasks of home and for those whose labors make life comfortable for us, we pray, that theirs may be the satisfaction of the consciousness of duty done and the reward of Thine approval.

If in aught we ask amiss, deny us, in Thy wisdom, what we ask, and withhold not from us the gifts of Thy choosing. And all we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

FOR every gracious word of Thine,
By which our languid spirits are refreshed,
Our dormant consciences aroused,
Our sense of values vitalized,

Our vision cleared,
We give Thee thanks, O Lord.

For warnings of the perils in our way,
Entreatings and beseechings, full of tenderness;
For promises that cheer our heavy hearts
And bid us stand erect and bear the blasts,
Knowing the storm will soon be spent;
For all the warm, heart-winning words of Christ,
Which strengthen the assurance that God *is*,
And that He thinks of us,
Feels for us, pities our distress,
And offers us His help,
We bless Thy Name, O God.

Make plain to us what we have not discerned
Of truth and wisdom in the Book.
Reveal to us the meaning of Thy silences,—
For not alone in words dost Thou appeal to us;
May we perceive between the lines the changeless
 love of God,
The passion of our Lord,—
The travail of His soul,
Unsatisfied until He sees in us
His work of grace complete.

So may the sacramental Word
Bring rest and healing to our souls,
Give insight to our minds,
And fortify our wills
To coincide with Thy most perfect will;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, our Father, we would thank Thee for all the gifts with which Thou hast filled our lives; for the daily miracle of light and shadow, work and rest, life and love; for high thoughts which uplift us and for pure hopes which bind and beckon us to Thee. We would thank Thee for disappointments and failures which have humbled us, for pain and distress which have taught us our need of Thee, but most of all for our faith in Thee and for the fullness of joy which Thy presence brings. Thou hast opened Thy heart to us in great mercy; may we open our hearts to Thee in penitence and gratitude.

From our meditations here may we learn that these lives of ours, so frail and fallible, may be shaped after a noble pattern. So may we rise to Thy expectation of us. So may we endeavor this and every day to be what Thou desirest, to do what Thou hast commanded, listening to the inner voice of Thy Spirit, searching the depths of our hearts, leaving no spot uncleansed and sparing not the sin with which it may cost us most to part.

We would put ourselves at the side of Thy Son, our Saviour, that from Him we may learn the secret of the well-balanced life, the life which yields to His restraint yet loses none of its fire and force.

We make intercession for all Thy people, near and far; for our brethren and companions; for those who are stricken in body, mind or estate; for those to whom passing years bring age and feebleness, and for those appointed to die. O God, send Thou some word of Thine to make a highway to all hearts that need Thy special touch of healing and of grace, and draw nigh to us in the manifold ministry of Thy redeeming love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

WE PRAISE Thee, our Heavenly Father, for the privilege of the exalted life, and for Thine ample provision of means and incitements thereunto. Teach us the lofty art. Impel us to indulge and nourish our aspirations. Let us not repress or neglect them. Let it not be in vain for us that Thou didst breathe Thy life into the human soul at the creation; that Thou dost beget us anew in Thine image by the Holy Spirit; that Thou hast spoken to us in Thy written Word, and in Jesus Christ; that Thou dost daily speak to us out of the deep by Thy Spirit and Thy providence. By this Divine intercourse make us at home with stars and suns, amid storm and calm, on this planet or any other, conscious comrades of Moses and Paul, and sharers in the task of building worlds and making men. Hast Thou not appointed us to this? Do not our inmost hearts cry out for it? Father, why should we stifle our deepest cravings and disappoint our noblest instincts? Since Thou hast made us to fly, why should we grovel in the dust? Teach us to soar and fear nothing, until the clamors of the crowd below die in the distance, and all the enticements of sin have lost their power to charm. Take possession of us with the surpassing allurements of the heavenly life. Give us the courage of our most daring dreams. Free us from the fetters of flesh, which chafe us and hold us down. Show us how to be masters, and no longer slaves; how to make sickness, misfortune, and death the servants of our flight and helpers of our divine ambition. . . . To this end, take out of us whatever is selfish, impure, ignoble, debasing. Fill our hearts with Thyself. Generate within us the gentleness which compassionates the erring, instead of the harshness which condemns them and

turns from them. Fill us with that consuming passion of love which shall inflame us with zeal for God and men, which shall make the heart glad and clothe us with compelling charm and power. Teach us to despise whatever in us is bitter, narrow, small, and mean. Let us share the lofty tolerance and boundless generosity of Him whose sun shines on good and evil alike; and the invincible confidence that knows no fear, and smiles where once we trembled and shrank. . . .

Father, we would, now and here, live and serve and reign with Jesus, even though the cost of this be suffering with Him; until the glory of Thy grace, passing through and dwelling in us, shall somewhat uplift all we meet and bless all who cross our path. . . .

If we be in sorrow, comfort us—that we may comfort others. Ignorant as we are, grant us Thy wisdom. Foolish and erring as we are, we would absorb Thy righteousness. Whatever we are, we would tread the earth with the gracious dignity of Thy children, the unconquerable joy of the ransomed, and the constant power of Christly usefulness. We ask it all in Jesus' name. *Amen.* (From A Veteran Pastor's Prayers.)

ETERNAL GOD, our Lord and Father, our need of Thee is supreme, and it is urgent. Only Thine hand can make music out of these battered lives and give power to our enfeebled souls. The strings of this harp respond aright to no touch but Thine, every other hand begets within us only discord and pain. All power belongs to Thee; it is because we live so far from Thee that our souls are distuned, distempered, and incompetent. Renew in us the Divine

life. Take away the staleness of our Christian experience, and make it ever fresh and new. Today find some new chamber of our being, empty of Thee as yet, and make it echo to Thy voice and expand with Thy life. We would have our whole mind and heart tingle to Thy touch, redolent of Thy grace, and a-throb with Thy power. The voice of a dead yesterday, even Thy voice of yesterday, we cease to hear. We perish for want of Thy word of today and for today. Our souls need fresh nourishment, and faint for want of it. We want new skill for new tasks, and larger zeal for exigencies just now born. It is Thou, O God, who hast brought us thus far: now lead us on. Forbid that we should stop half-way to completeness. Father, we want more homeward movement. We want to feel the upward pull more than the downward one. We want our sluggish feet stirred to run along the heavenward way to the music of Thy voice. We would learn to hate the horde of petty sins that clog us. Oh, feed us with Thyself, and fill us with Thyself.

Cure us of spiritual shallowness and barrenness. Beget within us so intense a concern for the advance of the Kingdom and the welfare of men as shall dwarf our greed for gain and for ease and pleasure, and break the power of these subtle sins. . . . Above all, keep us from spiritual suicide by neglect of opportunity and disuse of our power to serve; keep us from indolence that withers our faculties until we lose the very desire for God. Rather than this, stab us with pain; rather pierce our hearts with hot iron than leave us to shrivel in apathy and unconcern. . . . Thus, or as Thou wilt, may we live for Thee today, experience Thy joy today, and reflect Thy

glory and do Thy will amid the novel opportunities which crowd to-day. We pray in Jesus name. *Amen.*

(Ibid.)

OUR Heavenly Father, Lord of the ages, teach us to see Thy hand in the affairs of men and in shaping history. We praise Thee for the gentleness that disguises the Presence, lest the blaze of Thy glory blind us; but constrain us to see Thee through the concealing veil. O, for grace to see the light, however soft its radiance! Beget within us a new appreciation of the Bible, a clearer vision of Thyself in framing it, in giving it to us in our own tongue, and in embedding its sacred words and truths so deeply and widely in the people's literature and life. Rebuke our propensity to set Thee afar off, and to dislocate Thy revelations from common speech and everyday affairs. Constrain us to take our religion down from the high shelf. Let piety be no longer a mere holiday performance or dress parade. Lord, we need Thee close! We want Thy message in the language of the street and the home.

Speak to us in our careless hours. Commune with us amid our small pleasures, our trivial pains, our petty temptations, and in our dullest moods. Let the glory of Thy presence penetrate and transfigure our dinginess, and people our emptiness. Make us to hear Thee in our vernacular. Strive with us on the low levels where we are prone to think ourselves exempt from Thy touch. Enter the secret places of our hearts. Whatever company we may come into, let us find Thee there. Our lowliest task we would learn to do for Thee. Father, come to us *as we are!* Teach us to crave, and to enjoy, the constancy of

Thy fellowship. And thus sweep clean the dark corners of our hearts, and make bright and pure the obscure spots in our lives. And all we ask for Jesus' sake. *Amen.* (Ibid.)

THOU infinite and eternal God, the exhaustless One, our empty hearts turn to Thee. We humbly acknowledge Thy sovereignty. All fulness dwells with Thee. All our supplies must come from Thee. The larger life we crave all resides with Thee. All wisdom is Thine, all truth, all love. There is no vision save Thine, no gentleness, no warmth. Lord, make us docile in Thy hands, and responsive to Thine every touch. Perfect Thy will in us. So feed us on Thyself that our life shall reflect and transmit Thine own to the utmost. Chasten the wilfulness that wastes our energies, baffles Thy grace, and bruises our own lives. Overcome that waywardness by which we drift away from blessing into harm and deadly peril. When we have forfeited large gifts by our own folly, make us humbly glad to receive such smaller ones as our shriveled souls can at the moment absorb. When our stupidity has stricken us blind, make us willing to be led in the dark. When we have become too dazed to go right of our own will, make us willing to be compelled. But also, Lord, enlarge our hearts, that we may find the joy of willing obedience. Show us the largeness of Thy little things, the majesty of our smallest opportunities. Teach us the true magnitudes. We would find each passing moment freighted with high importance, every trial a herald of heavenly blessing, every cry of human need a summons from the throne. . . .

Speak, Lord, to our hungry hearts. For Jesus' sake.
Amen. *(Ibid.)*

ALMIGHTY God, we would hide ourselves under the wings of Thy mercy. We dare not look at Thy law, for we have broken it, nor at Thy righteousness, for it is now unto us as a two-edged sword; but Thou hast permitted us to look at Thy mercy. Thine eternal pity, those tears of Thine that bid us silent but large welcome to all the love of Thy heart. God be merciful unto us sinners. We have done our alms, and men have seen the doing of them; we have prayed, and behold our prayers have fallen back unheard, unanswered. We have fasted that we might draw attention to the dejection of our face. God be merciful unto us sinners. We have done the things we ought not to have done, we have left undone the things that we ought to have done; we pierce ourselves with many accusations, we cannot spare the infliction of bitter self-reproach, we mourn, we repent, we bow down ourselves before Thee in utterest humiliation, no voice have we of self-defense. God be merciful unto us sinners. Our standard has been short, our balances have been unequal, our purposes have been double, our words have had one meaning to others and another meaning to ourselves; we have lied without speaking, by smiling, by action, by hint. God be merciful unto us sinners; make us clean of heart, clean in the spirit, right in our motive, holy within; then shall our life be a sacred sacrifice, Thou wilt receive it daily in Thy heavenly places as a well-meaning offering of the soul.

We bless Thee for all Thy patient care, Thy long-suffering, Thy tender mercy. Thou hast taken care

of us, as if we were of consequence to Thee; Thou hast numbered the hairs of our heads, as if Thou hadst not to count the innumerable planets, and set the stars in their places. Thou hast hidden us in the hollow of Thy hand, and drawn us very near to Thy heart, and many a message of tenderest love hast Thou addressed to us in our low estate. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gifts. Thou hast given us Thine only-begotten Son, Son of Mary, Son of Man, Son of God, Lamb of God, Saviour of the world, Whose name gathers unto itself all music, and comes down upon our sin and woe like the very gospel of Thy heart. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

Thou hast not left Thyself without witness in our hearts. Thou hast given unto us thy Holy Spirit to convince of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come; to purify us as with flame, to illuminate our minds as with the very light of Thy throne, to teach us the meaning of Thy truth, and to help us to apply it to our varied necessities. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards us? Truly we can render nothing in return, but it shall be well with us if with our hearts and lips we can bless Thee for all thy love.

Thou art still in the world, Thou hast not withdrawn Thy rule from the sons of men, still the horn of thine anointed doth bud, and still Thou givest unto him a lamp that shall be a perpetual light. Thou liftest up the crushed truth, and Thou givest renewed beauty to graces that have been trampled upon by heedless or cruel feet. The Lord reigneth, His throne is in the heavens, and His scepter is stretched out over all. We know not what we do;

we cannot tell what a day may bring forth; we hide ourselves in the infinitude of Thy love; we put our whole life into Thy care; we would expend it in Thy service, we would yield it to Thy glory.

Wherein any heart is heavily burdened today, let special messages of grace be sent to it from heaven. Wherein the light of any house has been suddenly put out, O Thou, who hast all the lamps of the universe, do Thou set a new light to chase away the sudden and heavy darkness. Where great tears of woe are starting from the eyes, because of bereavement, bitter disappointment, brokenness of heart, because of family trouble, the Lord's own hand touch those tears and dry them, for our hands cannot touch a grief so great and heavy. Wherein our purposes are right, do Thou prosper them; wherein they are wrong or mistaken, do Thou confound them. We put our life again and again, day by day, with every waking and every sleep, into Thy hand: Thou didst give it, and it shall all be Thine.

Send Thy word out to those who are not with us today, to those who are shut up in solitude in the sick chamber, suffering or waiting upon others; be with those who are called upon suddenly to travel and leave us for a while, with those in trouble on the sea, with weary hearts too tired to pray, with those to whom life has become a great despair. The Lord lift the great Cross higher, and let it burn with all the fire of His love, and throw out its heat so that the coldest heart may feel it and the most desponding life may answer its warming ray.

The Lord's light be held above His Word, and the Lord's light spring out of His Word, that in the light coming from heaven and springing from the written

page we may see God's meaning, and give it loving welcome to our mind and heart. *Amen.*

(JOSEPH PARKER.)

ALMIGHTY God, our voice is lifted up to Thee in praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, because of all Thy tender mercy and Thy loving kindness shown unto us since we last assembled here. Thou dost lead us by ways that we know not, and unexpected answers dost Thou give to our trouble and our want. We look back to behold a long line of light: that line is Thy love, Thy care, Thy patience; and as we look forward we behold a long line of golden promise and tender assurance, so that we have no fear clouding and darkening our hearts. This is the Lord's doing, this is the gift of heaven, this is the revelation of God's love to our life, though it be dark, dark with sin and vexed with many cares. What time we are afraid, we put our trust in God; when the sky is black, we know that the sun is still there, and that no force but Thine can shake that source of light. Help us to know that the troubles of this life are for a moment, but as their season is short, so their visitation is often sharp. May we put our trust in Thy love and righteousness and tender care, and be quiet, though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

Thou hast written Thy testimony in our life, Thou hast proved Thyself every day of our individual history. Thou hast made us and not we ourselves, we are the people of Thy pasture and the sheep of Thy hand. Thou knowest our frame, Thou rememberest that we are dust; every bone Thou

didst fashion, our reason Thou didst set upon its throne, our whole life is brightened by the light of Thy presence, and as for the troubles which vex and divide us, behold Thou dost so direct them as to bring joy out of our greatest sorrow. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards us? We will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord, yea, with loudness as men call who are burning with the fire of earnestness. We will not restrain our song before God, but with loud hallelujahs will we praise Thee for Thy wonderful care, Thy continual mercy.

We come always to Jesus, because He is the same yesterday, today, for ever,—always full of love, full of pity, full of thought for our whole life. He died for us and rose again; He is our Saviour; and He is our intercessor; for us He shed His blood, for us He breathed away His heart in priestly prayer. We have no other Saviour; we need no other. His blood is our answer to Thy law, His Cross the sanctuary of the soul when pursued by its guilt.

We bless Thee that we are in Thy house, for it is good to be here. Thou dost cause a great calm to fill the sanctuary, and the spirit of peace speaks to the sons of peace, and having fellowship one with another, and with our common Father, great love floods the soul. Forgetting earth and time and dreary sense, we already claim the heritage bought for us by our Saviour Christ. Enjoying this opportunity of communion with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, may we return to the family, to the market place, to all the daily engagements of life, with renewed purity of soul, elevation of purpose, and breadth of charity, accepting our little life as a

great opportunity, and diligently working with both hands, not as hired servants, but as loving sons.

Set up Thy kingdom within our heart—call it Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven, Kingdom of Light, Kingdom of Truth—we shall know it by what name soever it is called, for it will absorb all other masteries and rule us with infinite and gracious dominion. Help us to see the best of one another, teach us to read each other's life in the light of Divine hope and redeeming love, fill our hearts with the very love of Christ, and may we prove discipleship by the cross.

Thou knowest the need of every heart, the pain of the wounded spirit, the joy of the delivered soul, the song of those who have great hope, and the purpose of those whose tomorrow is bright with great gladness. The Lord come to us according to our varied necessities, and according to the want or the joy of each heart, let Thy blessing be measured unto us. When our purpose is evil, turn our counsel upside down with a ruthless hand; when our aim is good, help us to accomplish our whole purpose. Break the arm that is lifted in rebellion against light, truth, beauty, holiness, and all heavenliness of love and purpose.

The Lord give strength unto those whose desire it is to make the world gladder day by day. The Lord look upon the old man whose life is behind him and speak some gospel of hope to his waiting soul. The Lord speak to the young man that he may estimate the number of his days and their brevity, and work in the spirit of the solemn responsibility. The Lord look upon the missionary at home, the loving mother, the gracious parent, the one who sacrifices

herself for her children, and loves them with unutterable affection. The Lord look into the nursery, into the cradle, into the school, among all our young and loved ones, and baptize them with the dew of the morning. The Lord be the physician in the sick chamber, and bear His own Gospel to hearts that can listen to no human tongue. The Lord's light brighten over the whole heavens until there be no shadow left. *Amen.* (*Ibid.*)

OUR Father, who hast set a restlessness in our hearts and made us all seekers after that which we can never fully find, forbid us to be satisfied with what we make of life. Draw us from base content, and set our eyes on far-off goals. Keep us at tasks too hard for us, that we may be driven to Thee for strength. Deliver us from fretfulness and self-pity; make us sure of the goal we cannot see and of the hidden good in the world. Open our eyes to simple beauty all around us, and our hearts to the loveliness men hide from us because we do not try enough to understand them. Save us from ourselves and show us a vision of a world made new. May Thy spirit of peace and illumination so enlighten our minds that all life shall glow with new meaning and new purpose, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, our God, we invoke thy blessing upon this assembly. Thou hast set Thy glory above the heavens yet hast revealed it to the humble and the pure in heart. May we see Thy glory in the sanctity of friendship, in the warm glow of dedicated hearthstones, in the joy of little children, and supremely in the Babe of Bethlehem, the Boy in the temple,

the Young Man at the Jordan, the Teacher by the seaside, the Sufferer on Calvary, the Victor over death in the garden, the ascending Lord.

We come to silence the misgivings of our souls with the words and experiences of Christ. Bring us through our knowledge of Him to new assurance of the great convictions by which we are measured in Thy sight. Bring us to a fresh sense of Thy nearness. Deliver us from presumption and from an equally faithless despair. Give us fellowship with Him Who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, and with all Thy faithful servants in every age, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, who lovest all and forgettest none, help us now, we beseech Thee, to intercede for others at Thy throne of grace.

We pray Thee to regard with Thy favor the little children. Fill their hearts with love to Thee. Write their names in Thy book of life. Give them a place in Thy heavenly kingdom; and grant that they may be Thine in that day when Thou makest up Thy jewels.

We pray for young men and maidens. Teach them to remember their Creator in the days of their youth. Enable them, O Lord, to consecrate themselves to Thy service whilst the dew of their youth is upon them. Make them willing to endure hardness, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. From the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, good Lord, deliver them. Enable them to do all things through Christ Who strengtheneth them.

We pray for those who are in the midst of their years, and are bearing the burden and heat of the

day. Save them, O God, from a worldly spirit, and from loss of faith and hope and charity. When they are careful and troubled about many things, may they cast all their care upon Thee, knowing that Thou carest for them.

We remember before Thee, O God, those who are growing old. Grant them Thy light at eventide. And when their flesh and their heart fail, give them clear visions of the better country, and enable them with joyful confidence to say, This God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death.

O Thou Helper of the helpless, we commend to Thy fatherly pity all who are called to bear the burden of sadness or of pain. Be pleased to grant unto the sick and the sorrowful the healing ministry of Thy compassion. Cheer the lonely and the friendless with the comfort of Thy presence. Soothe, we beseech Thee, the wounded spirit of the mourner, and speak peace to the anxious soul. Send the effectual succor of Thy grace to the tempted and weak; yea, make them more than conquerors in the day of evil.

Father of mercies, who wouldest have all men to be saved, be gracious unto those who, through blindness of heart, are estranged from Thee. Lift the cloud of darkness from their spirits, that they may see Thy face, and know the joy of Thy salvation.

We pray for our native land, and for all classes and conditions of men within its borders. . . . Let Christ be enthroned in the hearts of the people, and may His Gospel of peace, purity, and brotherhood be more and more the law of our national life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

(From Directory and Forms for Public Worship,
United Free Church of Scotland.)

O God, who dwellest in light that is inaccessible and full of glory, whom no eye hath seen nor can see, but who dost reveal Thyself to the pure in heart, enable us, we beseech Thee, to draw nigh unto Thee with reverence and godly fear, that we may see Thy power and glory, so as we have seen Thee in the sanctuary; and may, by beholding Thine infinite purity, be made ourselves more pure, and by experience of Thy Divine mercy be made ourselves more merciful.

O God, whose sacrifices are a broken spirit, and who wilt not despise a contrite heart, be pleased mercifully to receive us, as we now come in penitence to Thy footstool and make confession of our sin. We have transgressed against Thee in thought, and word, and deed. We have been distrustful, impatient, and uncharitable. We have been disobedient, worldly, and selfish. We have been forgetful of Thy holy commandment, insensible to Thy goodness, and heedless of Thy promises. Have compassion upon us, O Lord: for Thy Name's sake pardon our iniquity; and grant that, being brought to a due sense of our sinfulness, we may watch against temptation, and be so helped and strengthened by Thy grace as hereafter to serve and please Thee in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (*Ibid.*)

O God, without whom nothing is strong and nothing holy, strengthen us by Thy Spirit with all might in the inner man: arm us against temptation: suffer us not to be overcome of evil, but enable us to overcome evil with good. Keep us pure in the midst of iniquity, tranquil in the midst of strife, patient under affliction: and work within us both to will and

to do of Thy good pleasure. Mercifully grant unto us Thy continual help, that we may love the things which Thou commandest, and desire the things which Thou dost promise, and so be prepared for the life of eternal blessedness with Thyself in glory.

Merciful Father, who desirest our good alway, grant that we may cheerfully submit to all the discipline of Thy hand, and faithfully follow Thee whithersoever Thou ledest. Suffer no disappointment to shake our confidence in Thee; and let not the misfortunes of life fret and vex our souls. Help us to acknowledge Thee in all our ways, and do Thou direct our paths. Deliver us from a vain and idle spirit, from all indifference, and from all worldliness; and enable us to be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. In the discharge of daily duty may we be animated by the spirit of Jesus Christ, who went about doing good. Assist us to fulfil His law by bearing one another's burdens, and to follow His example by forgiving each other's faults.

O Lord, most merciful and mighty, we commend ourselves to Thee and to the Word of Thy grace, which is able to build us up, and to give us an inheritance among all them that are sanctified. We entreat Thee to keep our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling, that we may walk before Thee in the land of the living. And to Thee, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be all honor and praise now and evermore. *Amen.* (*Ibid.*)

O God, who art near us always, we would speak with Thee and thank Thee for all the good gifts with which Thou hast filled our lives. For blessings

all about our path, for love that makes life beautiful, for all thoughts that uplift and gladden us, for disappointment and failure which humble us, for pain and distress which teach us our need, but most of all for our hope in Thee and the fulness of joy which Thy presence brings. Let us never doubt that, having led us thus far, Thou wilt lead us to the end, and that Thou hast in store for us that perfect gladness of which we see some glimpses here. We all wish to serve Thee; show to each of us how we shall do it best. Look upon all of us who kneel here this morning, use us as Thou wilt, hands to work for Thee, feet to run for Thee, lips to speak of Thee, and sing for Thee, thoughts to use for Thee, hearts to love as Thou lovest. Let us have no lower aim, let none of us measure ourselves by others, or by any narrow and common standard of good, but let our lives be beautiful on all sides and full of this desire, to be perfect as Thou art perfect. We ask, knowing how poor and weak we are, in Thy strength, and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, at Whose word man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening; Be merciful to all whose duties are difficult or burdensome, and comfort them concerning their toil. Shield from bodily accident and harm the workmen at their work. Protect the efforts of sober and honest industry, and suffer not the hire of the laborers to be kept back by fraud. Incline the hearts of employers and of those whom they employ to mutual forbearance, fairness, and good will. Give the spirit of governance and of a sound mind to all in places of authority. Bless all those who labor in works of mercy and

schools of good learning. Care for all aged persons, and all little children, the sick and the afflicted, and those who travel by land or by sea. Remember all who by reason of weakness are overtasked, or because of poverty are forgotten. Let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners come before Thee, and according to the greatness of Thy power preserve Thou those who are appointed to die. Give ear unto our prayer, O merciful and gracious Father, for the love of Thy dear Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, Who settest the solitary in families, we commend to Thy continual care the homes in which Thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech Thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh; turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers; and so kindle charity among us all, that we be evermore kindly affectioned with brotherly love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

IV

Prayers for Special Occasions

At the Ordination of a Minister

O LORD, our God, whose Spirit inspired the prophets of old and touched with celestial fire the tongues of the apostles; who, age after age hast raised up for Thy Church pastors and preachers of zealous hearts and winning lips, we beseech Thee to furnish and equip for increasingly effective service the whole body of Thy servants, leading them into all truth and righteousness and preserving them ever more from the spirit of the hireling who careth not for the sheep but fleeth when he seeth the wolf coming.

Especially we beseech Thee to fill this Thy servant whom thou hast chosen, with Thy light, Thy life and Thine attracting grace, that in his voice Thy sheep may hear Thine own call to follow where he leads. Whithersoever Thy Providence may direct him, in the crowded city or in the quiet country, in his own land or among people of other tongues, leave him not alone, but be Thou near to strengthen and protect him. Let not sloth, weakness or weariness bring him to shame, but endue him with the spirit of power and love and of a sound mind. In all times of discouragement and of apparent defeat let the banner of the invincible Cross gladden his eyes, re-

vive his faith and restore his heart. In all times of success and victory, be Thou his joy and his glory. Great Shepherd of Thy flock, give him the shepherd's heart, that through him the Comforter may speak peace to troubled minds and assurance to those who are in doubt and stability to those who hesitate. Bless Thou all those to whom his ministrations may come with love for Thy truth, with confidence in Thy reality and with quietness and assurance in the possession of the faith that makes us faithful. Enrich this Thy servant with good judgment, gracious utterance and undiscourageable zeal. Endow him with patience, sincerity, large tolerance, and pure charity, that so following the example of his Master he may fulfil his mission and ministry and in the end of his days be received with an abundant entrance into Thy kingdom of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

At a Wedding

GOD of all grace, Giver of good and perfect gifts, who setteth the solitary in families, making the family the unit of organized society and the type of Thy holy Church, grant to us all grateful hearts, and wisdom to employ Thy gifts aright.

Out of Eden, like a silver stream, comes to us the institution of marriage. Out of Thy heart come to us love and trust, out of Thy mind that unity of thought which binds together kindred souls—"two heads in counsel, two beside the hearth, two in the liberal offices of life."

Bless now, we beseech Thee, this man and this woman, now husband and wife. Grant unto them

both the inclination and the power to keep inviolate the vow and covenant between them made. May they live in holy and rational love until life's end. May their affection for each other never change except as it shall increase from one degree of glory to another. Mercifully grant that as they are young together, so they may grow old together.

Remind us all of vows that bind us to one another and bind us, if we are faithful, to Thee. With clear-sighted vision, with wide tolerance, with deep sympathy, and with noble patience endow our souls.

May these, Thy servants and all this company who rejoice with them, be led by Thy Spirit in ways of righteousness and peace and joy, that so they may fulfil the swift and solemn trust of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

On Receiving Members into the Church

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we entreat Thee to bestow Thy grace upon Thy servants who have this day made solemn profession of their faith before Thee. Deepen in their hearts the holy impressions of this hour. Continually renew and strengthen their desire and purpose, that they may reverently take into their hands the memorials of their Lord's death, and being greatly strengthened thereby may run with patience the race set before them, looking unto Jesus.

Do Thou make them to be helpers of one another's joy and victory over evil. Alike in their hours of sacramental fellowship and of active service in the world, fill their hearts with the peace which the world cannot take away. Stablish, strengthen, and

settle them; and when they have served their generation by the will of God, do Thou receive them into the joy of their Lord.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. *Amen.*

Prayer at a Church Anniversary

WE LIFT our hearts in thanks
For faithful hands that builded here,
In years long gone, an altar unto God,
And for that countless host to whom
This place has been as heaven's gate.

Here they have brought their gifts,
Here wreathed their brides,
Here paused for prayer beside their dead;
Here men have heard the prophet's voice,
And had the seer's vision of the world that is,
And that which is to be—
The world redeemed by love.

Here youth has gathered courage for its daring
dreams,
Age has renewed its waning strength;
Here disunited hearts have found the unifying law,
And restless souls the priceless boon of peace.

Within these walls, how many bitter thoughts
Have been made sweet,
How many holy purposes confirmed!

This place is as a mountain top
 Above the dusty plain;
 It is the mountain of the Lord's own house,
 To whom be praise and glory ever more. *Amen.*

At a National Memorial Service

WE GIVE Thee thanks, our Father and our God, for this, our well-beloved land, to which our fathers gave their measureless devotion, that it might be strong and free. We call to mind those who have served and suffered for their love of liberty. Their names are written in the Book of Patriotic Memory. Our lives are rich and broad because they builded well the Nation's deep foundation walls. Bless this, our grateful service in their honor. May we follow with fearless steps the path they trod; and may we be worthy to bear their names and wear their mantles. Anoint us as servants of freedom and truth, we ask in Thy great name. *Amen.*

For the Peace and Unity of the Church

O LORD Jesus Christ, Who saidst unto Thine Apostles, "Peace, I leave with you, my peace, I give unto you," regard not our sins, but the faith of Thy Church, and grant her that peace and unity which are agreeable to Thy will, who livest and reignest, God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God of Peace, who through Thy Son Jesus Christ didst set forth One Faith for the salvation of mankind, send Thy grace and heavenly blessing upon all Christian people who are striving to draw

nearer to Thee, and to each other, in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace. Give us penitence for our divisions, wisdom to know Thy truth, courage to do Thy will, love which shall break down the barriers of pride and prejudice, and an unswerving loyalty to Thy Holy Name. Suffer us not to shrink from any endeavor which is in accordance with Thy will, for the peace and unity of Thy Church. Give us boldness to seek only Thy glory and the advancement of Thy Kingdom. Unite us all in Thee as Thou, O Father, with Thy Son and the Holy Spirit, art one God, world without end. *Amen.*

O LORD Jesus Christ, look with pity, we beseech Thee, upon Thy Church, weakened and hindered by differences and divisions; bless the effort to bring together in conference all who confess the faith of Thy Holy Name, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

(From an Old English Liturgy.)

*Prayer on the Occasion of the Opening
of an International Conference*

ALMIGHTY God, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
Thou hast appointed nations' bounds,
Yet knit together all Thy sons
By ties of common need,
And common hopes and fears;
We seek Thy guidance into truth,
Thy help in counsel, and Thy grace.

In spite of all diversity of tongues,
May we approach our task

With unity of purpose to achieve
The end we seek—the weal of all—
The greatest mutual good
Of nations and of men.

Endow us with invincible good will;
Grant us to see the point of view
Of one another, and to yield
The minor interest for the major cause;
Purge from our minds suspicion and distrust;
Lift us above all pride of place and power.

May we attain that altitude of soul
From which all things assume
Their true proportions;
Give us the wisdom to pursue,
With dignity and calm,
The path that leads to ultimate accord,
And so contribute, by our acts,
To speed the day of universal peace—
The reign of Reason and of Right. *Amen.*

Prayer in a Time of General Depression

O THOU whose ears are open to Thy children's cry,
Whose heart is fatherly and pitiful,
Thou knowest our distress;
Thou knowest who are bound by want,
And who are burdened with the bitter thought
Of what tomorrow may bring forth
Of pressing need.

Thou knowest where there lurks gaunt fear
That daily bread may fail,

That industry may cease,
That we may lose the hope of honest toil
And its rewards.

We mourn our waning faith,
And even more the faults and sins
That lie behind our present woes.
Thou hast not failed,—Thy gifts of sun and rain,
Of fertile soil and treasured earth,
Are not withdrawn; but we have failed:
We have not sought the common weal;
Each turned unto his own,
And the fair creeds our lips have said
Our lives denied:—

Belief in Brotherhood and Love—
Care for our neighbors' good—
The duty to hold high the honor of the soul.

Ah, clearly now we see the blindness of blind years!
Have mercy on Thy children, Lord!
Forgive the baseness of our aims,
And that we followed after other gods.
The idols that we fashioned with mad hands
Are in the furnace fires,
We cast them all away.

Now help us to rebuild our fallen house
Upon foundations that are strong and true.
Teach us the lessons Thou would'st have us learn:
The virtue of humility,
The oneness of the race,
The nature of real wealth,

Capacity to minister to public need:
 Thus, and thus alone, may we regain
 Our lost estate,—the mastery of life. *Amen.*

Prayer at the Christening of a Child

O God, the Fount of Life and Source of joy,
 We give Thee thanks for every gift of Thine
 Which helps to make the world a place of beauty
 and of hope.

We thank Thee for our homes, and for the ties that
 bind
 Our lives together,—ties of love, of gratitude
 Too deep for speech, of memory that stretches back
 Across the years to our own childhood,
 To the arms that held us, to the hearts
 In whom we trusted as in Thee.

We thank Thee for this child,
 And for the blessings children bring to those
 Who see in them the gift of God.

The links that bind us each to each and all to Thee
 Are by this Sacrament made sweeter and more
 strong.

We promise here that this dear child
 Shall learn from us the beauty of the ancient faith,
 The sacredness of life, the duty and the joy
 Of righteous speech and deeds,
 The nobleness of truth, the love of peace
 And gentleness; that so she may reflect
 Honor upon the Name of Him
 To whom we dedicate her life—and ours, anew.

Amen.

V

Prayers for Special Days

A Vacation Prayer

OUR God and gracious Father, accept the thanks of our hearts for those blessings which seem to us to have come nearest to ourselves; the love and service of parents, the understanding of friends, the sympathy of brother and sister, the instruction of teachers, the inspiration of preaching and poetry, the stirring of books, the delight of beauty and of music, the glory of light, the refreshment of rest, the nourishing of food, the fragrance of flowers, the grandeur of mountain and the majesty of the sea, the song of birds and of brooks, the "wonderful clear night of stars," the color of field and forest, the strength of the day and the soothing of the night. We bless Thee for work and laughter, for eagerness and ambition, for thought and memory, for hope and faith, for consolation and insight, for quietness of heart and courage of spirit, for opportunities of service and sympathy, for the trust and the confidence, the promise and the progress of youth, and for all Thy great goodness, Lord, we praise Thee. In Christ's dear name. *Amen.*

(DR. BOYD EDWARDS.)

*Prayer at the Opening of the Term
at a Boys' School*

OUR gracious Father and our God,
Accept our thanks for all Thy gifts,
For life and light and daily food,
For health of body and of mind,
For friends at home, and comrades here;
For work, and play, and silent hours;
For those who guide us in our tasks,
For opportunities to learn,
For music, pictures, books;
For faith, and hope, and quietness of heart.

We bless Thee for the beauty of the earth,
The changing seasons of the year,
The glory of the sun, the majesty of stars.

Grant us, we pray Thee, quick response to every
noble thought;
Incite in us the love of justice and fair play,
The deep desire to know and do Thy will.
May courage be the habit of our lives;
Deliver us from insincerity;
Cause us to know there is no victory
To be compared with victory over self;
Remind us of the Perfect Life—
The pattern given us by Him
Whom we call Lord.
By all His warm, heart-winning words,
And by our faithful following in His steps,
May we acquire power—

The will to do our best
In what we undertake,
And keep our record clean.

Open to us the pages of the Book of Life;
Teach us the truths by which alone
We may be free and strong;
Call us to Duty when and where Thou wilt;
Let Honor be the watchword of our souls,
And Thy "Well done" our comfort and our joy.
Amen.

At the End of a School Year

ALMIGHTY God, from whose wisdom come all knowledge and all truth, and from whose grace come all forgiveness and all hope, grant us Thy peace. For all Thy gifts we bless Thee. For all the beauty our eyes have seen, and for all the beauty our souls have apprehended, we give Thee thanks.

For all the wealth of friendship we have gathered, and for all the increasing power of mind and heart we have attained, we glorify Thee, our Maker and our Guide.

For all that we have said which we ought not to have said, for all that we have done which we ought not to have done, for sins of omission and neglect, we ask Thy mercy.

Grant us Thy guidance and help in days to come. Protect us from perils seen and unseen. Deliver us from fear that paralyzes the will, and from doubt that breeds despair. May the joys of life not make us selfish nor the sorrows of life make us bitter. May the disappointments that await us make us gentle

and generous, sympathetic and strong. May victory make us grateful and humble, and may failure, if it lays us low, leave us at Thy feet.

Grant Thy blessing to all teachers and students whose year's work is ended, to teachers who have borne the burden and heat of the day, and who now lay down their tasks. Great Shepherd of Thy sheep, lead them, when the shadows lengthen, into green pastures and beside the waters of comfort. May students who have sought the wisdom that comes with knowledge find also the power that comes with discipline.

Bless us as we go our ways in pursuit of rest and renewed vigor. Help us, whether we sojourn among the quiet hills or by the far-sounding sea, that our feet may be kept from falling, our hearts from evil, and our eyes from tears.

Bless our dear children, whether with us or out of our sight. May they be as pure in heart as the water that gushes from the rocks, radiant in spirit as the sunshine that glorifies the summer, high-minded in purpose as the sky is high above the earth.

Help us more and more to bring our lives into accord with the Master. May we silence the misgivings of our souls with His words and experiences. May we seek and know the reality of His presence and the constraint of His companionship.

O Thou who art the Prince of Peace to the disquiet and the Wonderful Counselor to the simple, we seek Thy rest and wisdom.

Speak through Thy servants in this place who lead our thoughts Godward. May we hear the voice of Conscience—the still, small voice that bids us look at life from the viewpoint of the Cross.

Bless all the world. Thou standest above all tumult, beckoning us to calm; above all darkness, awaiting to lead us to the light. In Thy leading may we all rejoice. In Thy help may health flow into our lives, quickening all our powers and renewing us in the image of our Lord. For His Name's sake. *Amen.*

Prayer for Election Day

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, in whose hand our days are held, we beseech Thee to guide and govern the minds of Thy people in wisdom, sincerity, and judgment, that being called upon to choose just legislators and faithful counselors, we may understand the sacredness of the trust committed to us and the greatness of the interests which thereon depend. To Thee, O Lord, we commit this whole land. Abolish all mean desire and unworthy motive. Let none be deceived through wilfulness or by vain words. Cleanse all thoughts and uplift all minds. Enable us to consider all things diligently, and in singleness of heart to fulfil Thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Adapted from Book of Common Worship.)

Prayer on Thanksgiving Day

O THOU Whose gifts are boundless
And whose grace is free,
We thank Thee for Thy love,
And for these lives of ours beneath the sun.
The beauty of the earth and sea,
The glory of the sky, the changing seasons of the
year,

The countless pleasures of the world of sense,
The greater wealth of mind and soul,—
All, all, are tokens of Thy care for us,
Thy more than friendly care.

It is Thy truth that makes us free;
Thy Spirit gives us rest;
Thy sun and rain have been our ministers.
So, at our feasts, we lift glad hearts to Thee.

We would not sin by eating graceless meat.
May memory teach us how and why to voice our
praise.

May we look back and see the origin of things:
The faith which laid the State's foundation deep;
The power of prayer which kept the martyrs strong,
And made them prophets of the coming age;
The courage which endured that we might be
The heirs of liberty and light;
The hope which beckoned every pilgrim soul
Along the path to present safety and to future weal.

For all the good and great of spirit and of brain,
For all to whom Thy works are as a volume to be
read;

For all who ever sought—or still do seek—
The secrets of Thy Word,
We give Thee thanks,
Thou God of sages and of saints.

For mercies great and small;
For friendships near and far;
For triumphs of the truth;
For conquests of the Cross;
For faith of man in man;

For lips that plead, and tongues that sing,
 And eyes that glow, and tears that cleanse the heart,
 And death that opens wide the gates of Life,
 We offer thanks.

And for the clearer sight of things unseen,
 Achieved as years go by and age comes on,
 And for the light that fades not as the sun goes
 down,
 We glorify Thy name.

Thou art our pitying Father and our God;
 Be Thou our Guide
 Through life's short day and death's swift night,
 And may the immortal morning find us grateful still.
Amen.

Prayer for Advent

WE GIVE Thee thanks, our Father and our God, for the timely coming of the Millennial Man, for His gift-bringing, heart-warming presence in the world, for His vivid, never-worn-out words, which glow with quick and comforting meaning; for His austere commandments and His tender beseechings. We look at Him and are ashamed of our unworthiness. We listen to Him and are encouraged to try again to follow in His steps. We would submit ourselves to the scrutiny of His eyes, our work to the perfect standard of His law, our speech to the pattern of His truth, and our hearts to the high example of His purity. Cleanse us, not alone from every open sin, but from every lurking insincerity. May our labor be without a shadow of self-seeking and our

faith be without the fear that dishonors Thee. We humbly ask in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

Prayer on Christmas Day

O THOU whose love is boundless as the sea,
Whose gifts to men are countless as the stars,
Our hearts are moved to gratitude
For all that makes life rich and fair.

Again we celebrate the birthday of the Child,
And give Thee thanks
For stars that rain their light upon the earth,
And bear us back in memory to Bethlehem;
For Christmas bells across the snow;
For trees that blossom in our homes
With gold and gleam and joy for children's eyes;
For gracious greetings sent from friend to friend.

We bless Thy name for the Millennial Man
Whose birth we keep:—
That He was helpless Babe and reverent Boy,
Obedient Youth and burdened Man,—
And that, because He was,
All life is sacred and all work divine.

For that He kept the faith—
That He who came from God returned to God,
His soul unstained, His task complete,
We glorify Thy name.

Grant us, we pray Thee, for His sake,
His peace, His love of peace,
His faith in things unseen,

His pity for the poor,
 His vision of the Coming Age,
 When weakness shall grow strong,
 And strength grow kind,
 And men shall know themselves as sons of God.

Grant us, we ask Thee, in His name,
 The spirit of good will,—
 Not for this day alone, but for all days.
 Grant us to know the truth,—
 Devotion to the truth,—
 The strength to do our work,
 The courage to confess our faith,—
 To turn it into deeds,—
 And at the last, the opening Door,
 The welcoming hands of Home. *Amen.*

Prayer on New Year's Eve

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, Who hast given us grace in times past, and hast mercifully brought us to see the end of another year, grant that we may continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Thy dear Son. Lead us forward by Thy Spirit from strength to strength, that we may more perfectly serve Thee, and attain unto a more lively hope of Thy mercy in Christ Jesus. Quicken our dull hearts, inspire us with warmer affections for Thee, O God, and for Thy heavenly Truth. Stir up the gift that is in us, and pour down from above more abundant gifts of grace, that we may make progress in heavenly things. Increase our faith as Thou dost increase our years, and the longer we are suffered to abide on earth, the better may our service be, the

more willing our obedience, the more consistent our daily lives, the more complete our devotion to Thee. Grant this our prayer, O gracious Father, which we humbly offer at the throne of grace, in the Name and for the sake of Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

Prayer on New Year's Day

LORD, Thou hast ever been our dwelling-place,
Thou art the same from age to age;
To Thee, the Past is Present and the Future near;
The passing years are but an instant in Thy sight,—
Whose lifetime is Eternity.

We are the creatures of a little day;
How swiftly years are spent,
And we grow old ere we begin to live!

The birth and death of years
Remind us of our transiency.
Thou knowest—and we know—that we are dust—
The sport of idle winds—motes floating in the sun.

Yet, Lord, let not this knowledge of our littleness
Extinguish in our hearts the spark
Which Thou hast planted there:—
The faith that we are somewhat more than dust,
And that these lives of ours, so fugitive,
Are vastly greater than they seem.
We are akin to Thee.
These minds of ours can dream great dreams,
These hearts can love,
These wills can set themselves
To make Thy will our own!

So, comfort us this day
With thoughts that overleap
The flight of time,
And give us vision of our destiny.

We are not born to die;
Immortal Life is our inheritance,—
Let us look up to Thee, our Father God.
May each New Year awaken in us gratitude
For the revealing of Thyself to us
As Everlasting Love,
And for our high estate
As heirs of ageless life,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

VI

Incidental Prayers

Prayer Among the Mountains

FREE from the wearying strain of work,
Far from the beaten paths of trade,
Unvexed by clamor and by haste,
We hear a still, small voice that calls
"Come ye apart and rest awhile."

Lord, we would rest us in Thy house,—
For is not this the place
Wherein—whereon—Thy glory dwells?

Above us bends the blue;
Around us tower the peaks—
Thy mountains: art Thou not creation's Lord?
Does not Thy mercy, mountain-like,
Encircle all our lives?

Lord, let Thy silence speak to us,
For we are tired of words;
And may the majesty that broods
Over this scene rebuke our pride,
For we have builded towers
In Babylon, and boasted of our work.
Man's work? How less than little in the scale
With these—these peaks that pierce the clouds,
These pinnacles that lift their spires on high!

Great God of Glory and of power,
 Subdue our hearts to reverence
 And lift our minds to awe!

How changeless are these granite walls!
 They do not shift from age to age.
 And yet, ere these were thundergirt,
 And after they have crumbled into dust,
 Thou wert and art the Eternal One!
 On this we build our faith—
 Thou art the same from age to age,
 God of our fathers—and our God! *Amen.*

Prayer at Sea

THOU rulest, Lord, the raging of the sea;
 Thy hand hath marked the ocean's bounds;
 The winds and waves obey Thy will;
 Thy power is over all Thy works;
 And we are Thine—a part
 Of Thy great family—
 The objects of Thy thought and care.

We give Thee thanks for safety on the sea,
 For quiet days, and nights without alarm;
 For all the vigilance and skill
 Which guide the ship through storm as well as calm;
 Be with us as we pass from shore to shore;
 Keep those whom we have left behind;
 May friendly hands await us where we go.
 Our hearts go out to those upon whose labor we
 rely—
 Our seen and unseen servitors—
 The men below the water line—

The men on deck and on the bridge—
And those whose constant thought
Is for the welfare of us all.

To Thee do we commend our homes and theirs.
To Thee we lift our hearts in praise and prayer.
The sea is vast, our lives are small;
We leave us in Thy care. Thy love is sure. *Amen.*

Prayer for Children

O ETERNAL Source of all Being, how dread yet sweet the trust Thou hast imposed in us!—to cherish each new bud of life's old tree, to nourish it aright; to shield it well from frost of cruelty and heat of selfishness; to strengthen it for storms; to set it in right soil and atmosphere; to watch it as it grows, nor ever shirk love's ministry until it blooms, a perfect flower as in Thine own creative thought! How shall parents learn, except as they are taught by Thee and led by purest love, to do this mightiest task of love? How shall teachers learn, save from the lips and life of Jesus Christ, the art of planting in the plastic mind, the love of truth? How shall we all learn, except by wisdom from on high, and by that love that is forever kind, to care for, as we should, those little ones who have no home? O Love Divine, we pray Thee by Thy Spirit move all those who stand in strength and power upon this earth, by ministry to those who need, to pay the debt of gratitude they owe, even as they themselves have been the heirs of boundless goodness in the past.

Nowhere, O Lord of Life, are we so close to Thy heart of love as when we stand beside the cradle or when we clasp the hands of little ones or guide the

feet of youth in ways of pleasantness and peace. We beseech Thee help us show forth that love, that, wheresoever else in all the world there may be selfishness and greed and grinding care and hopeless poverty, these shall not be the lot of little children. Help us that the trust of infancy, so calm, so free from fear, so confident of good, may never be abused by us. Above all, make us worthy to lead our little ones to Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer in Old Age

O, most merciful God, cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not if my strength faileth. May my hoary head be found in righteousness. Preserve my mind from dotage and imbecility, and my body from protracted disease and excruciating pain. Deliver me from despondency in my declining years, and enable me to bear with patience whatever may be Thy holy will. I humbly ask that my reason may be continued to the last, and that I may be so comforted and supported that I may leave my testimony in favor of the reality of religion, and of Thy faithfulness in fulfilling Thy gracious promises. And when my spirit leaves this clay tenement, Lord Jesus receive it. Send some of Thy blessed angels to convey my inexperienced soul to the mansions which Thy love has prepared, and, oh, may I have an abundant entrance ministered unto me into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

(ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.)

For Faithful Friends

WE GIVE Thee thanks, our Father and our God,
For friends of other years and of today,
Through whom Thy grace and patience, Thy good
will,
Have been made known to us.
Through them—their kindness—their untiring love—
We know Thy heart: Thou gavest them to us,
That we might see in them reflection of Thyself.

For those at rest in Thee, for those whose hands
We still may touch—whose voices hear—
We praise Thee with full hearts.
On them our grateful benedictions rest.
Fain would we repay a part of that we have received;
But only love we have to give;
And on our love for them we ask Thy grace.

And on our love for those whom we shall meet in
time to come,
And learn to call our friends—friends who are yet
to be—
We ask Thy blessing and Thy peace.

We think of those who have no friends,
Of those who say: "None careth for our souls";
Of those in whom capacity for friendship seems
extinct:
Give them to see they need not die of thirst
With wholesome water all around, and that to drink.
May not His words still reach their ears,
"Ye are my friends"? Art Thou not Friend of all,

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Unto the uttermost of time and need?
We cleave to Thee, O friendly God,
O Lover of our souls, to whom our lives are bound
By ties Death cannot break. *Amen.*

(From Prayers and Reflections of a Modern Disciple.)

VII

Funeral Prayers

O GOD, who are the Strength of Thy saints and who redeemest the souls of Thy servants, We bless Thy name for all those who have died in the Lord, and who now rest from their labors, having received the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls. Especially we call to remembrance Thy loving-kindness and Thy tender mercies to this Thy servant. For all Thy goodness that withheld not his portion in the joys of this earthly life, and for Thy guiding hand along the way of his pilgrimage, we give Thee thanks and praise. Especially we bless Thee for Thy grace that kindled in his heart the love of Thy dear Name; that enabled him to fight the good fight, to endure unto the end, and to obtain the victory; yea, to become more than conqueror, through Him that loveth us. We magnify Thy holy Name that his trials and temptations being ended, sickness and death being passed, with all the dangers and difficulties of this mortal life, his spirit is at home in Thy presence, at whose right hand dwelleth eternal peace. And grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we who rejoice in the triumph of Thy saints may profit by their example, that becoming followers of their faith and patience, we also may

enter with them into an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(From the Book of Common Prayer.)

O LORD, by all Thy dealings with us, whether of joy or pain, of light or darkness, let us be brought to Thee. Let us value no treatment of Thy grace simply because it makes us happy or because it makes us sad, because it gives us or denies us what we want; but may all that Thou sendest us bring us to Thee, that knowing Thy perfectness we may be sure in every disappointment Thou art still loving us, in every darkness Thou art still enlightening us, and in every enforced idleness Thou art still using us; yea, in every death Thou art giving us life, as in His death Thou didst give life to Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

(PHILLIPS BROOKS.)

ALMIGHTY Father, the God not of the dead but of the living, we have joy together in all who have faithfully lived and peacefully died, and whose truth and beauty are even now in our hearts. May we be assured that they who are absent from us have found a more perfect rest in Thee, and the crown of an unfading life. No longer can we care for them; but Thou wilt care for them better than our love could do. By pastures green and by quiet waters, into higher life and service Thou wilt lead them, O Thou Eternal Lover of Souls. Cherish and bless them, we pray thee; and give unto us great peace and great hope as we think about them in this still hour. Take the veil from our hearts, and join us in one com-

munion with all Thy saints on earth and in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(From Hunter's "Devotional Service.")

ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together Thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of Thy Son Christ our Lord; Grant us grace so to follow Thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which Thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (From The Book of Common Prayer.)

LORD, we pray Thee that Thou wilt open our eyes to behold the heaven that lies above us, wherein they walk who, being born to the new life, serve Thee with the clearer vision and the greater joy, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.* (*Ibid.*)

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace to trust to Thy never-failing care and love those who are dear to us, for this life and the life to come; knowing that Thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (*Ibid.*)

O LORD Jesus Christ, who didst reveal Thyself more fully to Thy disciples after Thou wast taken from them, grant us faith to believe that no separation of time or place can sever Thy servants from their eternal union in Thee, who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God, world without end. *Amen.* (*Ibid.*)

ALMIGHTY God, who hast taught us that they who mourn shall be comforted, grant that in all our grief we may turn to Thee; and because our need is beyond the help of men, grant us the peace of Thy consolation and the joy of Thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (*Ibid.*)

O, LORD, support us all the day long of our troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in Thy mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.)

ALMIGHTY God, Giver of life and Comforter of sorrow, lift up our hearts toward Thyself, that in Thy light we may see light, and so there shall be no darkness.

Thou hast ordered that Thy servants shall pass through death to see Thy face. Help us, therefore, that we may never think of death as the end of our existence, but as its best beginning. Support us when the shadows fall, and lead our wandering feet in peace and confidence through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (From *Verba Consolantes.*)

VIII

Personal Prayers

O GOD, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; mercifully grant unto me such a sense of sin that I may receive cleansing, and that I may be made pure in heart, so that I may see Thee evermore; through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O God, give me strength to live another day. Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties. Let me not lose faith in my fellow men. Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness. Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them. Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity. Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things. Grant me this day some new vision of Thy truth, inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness, and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls; in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

(PHILLIPS BROOKS.)

WHILE we remember, O Heavenly Father, our daily duties and the glorious destiny Thou hast ap-

pointed for us, we pray Thee that with great and noble lives we may serve Thee all our days. May there be in us such knowledge of Thee, such reverence for Thee, and such trust in Thee that we shall keep every law Thou hast written in our body or in our soul, and grow wiser and better, passing from the glory of a good beginning to the glory of a noble ending, as we are led forward by Thy Spirit, co-working with our own. Day by day, may we proclaim our religion by our faithful industry, doing what should be done, bearing what must be borne, and at all times acquitting us like men. So may Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen.*

REMEMBER all them that do the Lord's work in the ministry and conduct of souls. Give them, we beseech Thee, O Father, great gifts and great holiness, that wisely and charitably, diligently and zealously, prudently and acceptably, they may be guides to the blind, comforters to the sad and weary; that they may strengthen the weak and confirm the strong, separate the worthless from the precious, boldly rebuke sin, patiently suffer for the truth, and be exemplary in their lives; that in all their actions and sermons, in their discipline and ministrations, they may advance the good of souls, and the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ; grant this for the sake of Thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

(JEREMY TAYLOR.)

O God, grant unto us that we be not unwise, but understanding Thy will; not slothful, but diligent in Thy work; that we run not as uncertainly, nor fight Thy battles as those that beat the air. Whatsoever

our hand findeth to do, may we do it with our might; that when Thou shalt call Thy laborers to give them their reward, we may so have run that we may obtain; so have fought the good fight, as to receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(HENRY ALFORD.)

O ALMIGHTY God, Thou Who sittest on the throne, make all things within us new this day. Renew our faith, and hope, and love. Renew our wills, that we may serve Thee more gladly and watchfully than ever; renew our delight in Thy Word and Thy worship; renew our joy in Thee; renew our longing that all may know Thee; renew our desires and labors to serve others; and so take care of us Thy people, who embrace the Cross of Thy Son, and desire to walk in the light and power of Thy Spirit now and evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

O LORD, our Guide even unto death, grant us, we beseech Thee, grace to follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest. In little daily duties to which Thou callest us, bow down our wills to simple obedience, patience under pain or provocation, strict truthfulness of word and manner, humility, kindness. In great acts of duty or perfection, if Thou shouldest call us to them, uplift us to self-sacrifice, heroic courage, laying down of life for Thy Truth's sake or for a brother; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.)

O LORD, our only Saviour, we cannot bear alone our load of responsibility; up-bear us under it. We look

without seeing unless Thou purge our sight; grant us sight. We read without comprehending, unless Thou open our understanding; give us intelligence. Nothing can we do unless Thou prosper the work of our hands upon us; "O prosper Thou our handiwork." We are weak; out of weakness make us strong. We are in peril of death; come and heal us. We believe; help Thou our unbelief. We hope; let us not be disappointed of our hope. We love; grant us to love much, to love ever more and more, to love all, and most of all to love Thee. Grant this, we humbly beseech Thee, for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

(CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.)

FATHER,

The path ahead is dark,
And we know not where Thou wouldst have us to go.
Give us, oh, give us, Thy gracious guidance
And a tranquil trust in Thy love,
That we may walk forward through the gloom,
Unflinching, fearless and confident,
Having within us that divine Light
Which maketh clear as day the darkest midnight.
(From A Book of Prayers Written for Use in an Indian College.)

O MOST merciful and gracious God, we beseech Thee to hear our prayers, and to deliver our hearts from the temptation of evil thoughts, that, by Thy goodness we may become a fitting habitation for Thy Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

TEACH us, good Lord, to serve Thee as Thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek

for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do Thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (IGNATIUS LOYOLA.)

O GOD, Who leadest us through seasons of life to be partakers of Thine eternity, the shadows of our evening hasten on. Quicken us betimes, and spare us that sad word, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Anew we dedicate ourselves to Thee. We would ask nothing, reserve nothing for ourselves, save only leave to go whither Thou mayest guide, to live not far from Thee, to die into Thy nearer light. Content to accept the reproach of truth, we would take upon us the yoke of Christ, whom it behooved to suffer ere He entered into His glory. We ask it in the Name and for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(JAMES MARTINEAU.)

O THOU, in whom we live and move and have our being, who art within our thoughts and desires, Thou art nearer to us than any creature, yet we cannot by searching find Thee out. Thou art farther from us than the east is from the west; yet Thou revealest Thyself on every side, and in all places of Thy dominion. Grant unto us, who now feel after Thee, the inward succor of Thy Spirit. Send us help from above, and show unto us Thy heavenly light. Keep us from the folly of thinking that we know Thee fully, and from the sorrow of imagining that Thou art too great to be known at all. May our thoughts of Thee be just and true, and our feelings toward Thee full of reverence and love. *Amen.*

O THOU who dwellest in the light invisible, and yet revealest Thyself to the soul that is in darkness, Father of spirits, we praise Thee for all that Thou art in Thyself to us unknown; and for all that Thou revealest from day to day. For every creature of Thine that ministers to us in any way; for our parents, teachers, and benefactors; for the examples of the past and the counsels of the present; for the way by which Thou art leading us; for Thy voice in our consciences, Thy law in our minds, and Thy love revealed in our affections; for Thine infinite mercies to our fathers; and for Thy promises unto their children, receive, O Lord, the humble thanksgiving of our hearts. *Amen.*

LORD, make this day to be the day of Thy tender mercy. Listen to the prayers of all Thy children, be the Shepherd of the lost, the Guide and Light of unbelievers, the Teacher of the simple, the Father of the fatherless, the Protector of the oppressed, the Physician of the suffering, the Comforter of the dying, and bring us all at last to Thee, our Refuge and Eternal Rest. *Amen.*

GRANT us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain; that, reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation, we may praise Thee, the eternal God, Who art blessed, and dost govern all things, world without end. *Amen.*

FATHER of Lights, by Whose hand the fires of the sun are fed, and Who hast kindled in our hearts the desire to know, we bless Thee for leading us into a

life wherein light and darkness are so wonderfully mingled. For the darkness and for the light we praise Thee. On our knees we would learn to think. Standing on our feet we would learn to pray. O Thou in Whose being the simplicity and mystery of life do meet together, cleanse our prayers with the sanctity of reason, ennoble our reasonings with the majesty of prayer, and so bring us onward through darkness and through light, till in Thy presence and before our eyes the power that made the stars and the love that exalts our hearts shall kiss each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Good Shepherd, Who camest to seek and to save that which was lost, be with me in this my work. Strengthen me in my weakness. Give me greater zeal for Thy glory, greater love for the souls Thou didst die to save. Let not my sins or infirmities hinder Thy grace. Grant me faithfulness with tenderness, and boldness with meekness. Teach me, that I may teach. Comfort me, that I may comfort. Bless that which I shall speak in Thy name. And have mercy both upon the pastor and upon the flock; for thine own merits' sake. *Amen.*

O ETERNAL God, Who hast made all things for man, and man for Thy glory, sanctify my body and soul, my thoughts and my intentions, my words and actions, that whatsoever I shall think, or speak, or do, may be by me designed to the glorification of Thy name, and by Thy blessing may be effective and successful in the work of God, according as it can be capable. Lord, turn my necessities into virtue, the works of nature into the works of grace, by making

them orderly, regular, temperate, subordinate and profitable to ends beyond their proper efficacy, and let no pride or self-seeking, no covetousness or revenge, no impure mixture or unhandsome purposes, no little ends and low imaginations pollute my spirit and unhallow any of my words and actions; but let my body be a servant of my spirit, and both body and spirit servants of Jesus; that doing all things for Thy glory here, I may be partaker of Thy glory hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(From "A Book of Offices and Prayers.")

GUARD Thou our Thoughts, O God, and cleanse our hearts from every lurking evil. By Thy tender grace shame away all prejudice and scorn, melt down our pride, quench our fears, sweeten our affections, and lift us above the fretfulness of the world into Thy divine repose. And, O arm of the Lord! awake our slumbering and heedless wills, that we may take all our yoke, and give ourselves up to Thee, not by inward vision only, but by faithful service. As Thou, O Father, workest everlastingly, and not one of Thy blessings ever faileth, may we never grow weary of well-doing; but still follow the steps of Thy beloved Son, today and tomorrow, till the sacrifice of ourselves be perfected. For Thy Name's sake. *Amen.*

(JAMES MARTINEAU.)

O THOU, whose Word hath appeared full of grace and truth, in our humanity and in the humiliation perfected the holiness of life, more and more let the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus, that we may divest ourselves of every claim, and look for no final peace without the Cross.

By a patient, loving, trustful spirit, steadfast under evil and hopeful of all good, may we rise into ever nearer communion with Thee; and Thou, in Thine own best time, when we are purified by the dew of Thy grace on our repentance, and are prepared for the rest that remaineth, join us at length to the august and saintly company of Thy redeemed. For Thy Name's sake. *Amen.* (*Ibid.*)

THOU Blessed Spirit, who camest when Jesus went away that we might not be left desolate, evermore be unto us in His room; for is not this Thine office? Reveal Him unto us, and lay His love home to our hearts. When our faith is ready to die, revive it; when our hope burns low, rekindle it; when our feet slip, hold us up; and still in the multitude of our thoughts within us may Thy comforts delight our souls. Be the Comrade of our pilgrimage, continually attending us in gracious ministration. In the noon-tide's glare be Thou unto us as an overshadowing cloud, sheltering us from the heat and dimming the glitter of earthly vanities. In the darkness be as a light upon our path, dispelling the mists which enfold us, and purging our eyes that they may see the breaking of the Eternal Day.

O spread Thy cov'ring wings around,
Till all our wand'rings cease,
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace. *Amen.*

(DAVID SMITH.)

GRANT unto us, O Lord who hast made the meek Thy true ministers and through the gentleness of Thy Son reached and changed our hearts and our

ways, a new grace of gentleness. Forgive us our pride and harshness, endue us with Thy tenderness toward the sore and stricken and, though we be not great in power or station, may we be great in humility. In His Name. *Amen.*

(GAIVS GLENN ATKINS.)

O God, the Sovereign Good of the soul, Who requirest the hearts of all Thy children, deliver us from all sloth in Thy work, all coldness in Thy cause; and grant us by looking unto Thee to rekindle our love, and by waiting upon Thee to renew our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LIGHT of the World, whose glory shines in the face of Jesus Christ, grow in our darkness to the splendor of the perfect day! Thou dwellest in mystery of light and we reach up toward Thee in full assurance of Thy presence and of Thy will to make us pure. Disperse our fears. Transform our ambitions. Teach us to leave the paths of shadow for the way of truth. Help us to trust Thee wholly and to take each step Thy wisdom shows in quiet confidence and joyful hope, assured of Thee whatever else may fail. May the revelation of Thyself grow ever clearer as we walk with Thee. Let it shine in common things and quiet hours, from Thee to us; from us, by Thee, to those who need and see Thee not; that we may show Thy glory and be made partakers of the joy of Christ. *Amen.*

O THOU, to whom our spirits turn, as the flowers turn to the sun, may no shadow of earth come between us this day, but may our souls be flooded with the light of Thy life and love, healing our hurts,

cleansing our thoughts and renewing all our powers. Through the revelation of Thyself in Jesus Christ our Lord may we see the possibilities of our own lives and yield ourselves to the influences that will make us patient and forgiving, contented and grateful, true to ourselves and faithful to Thee. Make us Thy light-bearers in the world, holding forth the word of life that others may come into the freedom and joy of the truth, and so hasten the coming of Thy kingdom on earth. *Amen.*

O THOU mighty Friend of man, Thou art the Giver of all Good. As the father cares for his child, so dost Thou keep eternal vigil over all Thy children.

Without Thee there is no life, nor any joy. Thou hast made the world in all its beauty. Thou hast caused the sun to give us warmth and light. The shining stars obey Thy will; grant us Thy grace to keep Thy law.

Help us to be more faithful to Thy trust in us. Make us steadfast in every task Thou givest us to do. May we help others to be happy. And thus, as Thy loyal sons and daughters, we will work with Thee forever, in Thy Kingdom, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

THOU God of all grace, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, so vitalize us that we can never again be dull or sluggish, never again wrapped up in self, never again indifferent to human woe. Ransomed by Thy grace and made Thy sons and heirs, we would fain be too happy ever to be unkind, too humble to be carping or critical, too compassionate to be cold or indifferent, too serene to be disturbed

by any misadventure or opposition. We do not ask for praise of men, for swift success, for earthly ease or honor; but we do implore Thee for the fulness of Thine indwelling, for fixed assurance, for power to do good. Lord, purge away all our dross. Let there be no room within for aught but Thyself. *Amen.*

OUR Father and our God, "how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all." Nature around us with its thousand voices whispers Thy name. Thou dost speak to us also through human life. We praise Thee for the joys of fellowship, the arts of friendship, the charm of society, and still more for the blessed comradeship of Thy church. . . . Teach us to respond warmly to Thy gracious and varied touch. Cure our spiritual numbness. Put life into our paralyzed hands. Keep us from being idlers in Thy house. Beget within us a generous enthusiasm for this Thy Body, and make us sharers in its larger life. . . . So prosper the broad work of Thy kingdom that every one shall feel himself a vital part, and shall in some form become a channel of blessing and an agent of benefaction. *Amen.*

(From a Veteran Pastor's Prayers.)

O most merciful Father, we confess that we have done little to forward Thy kingdom in the world, and to advance Thy glory. We would humble ourselves before Thee for our past neglects, and seek for thy forgiveness. Pardon our shortcomings. Give us greater zeal for Thy glory. Make us more ready and more diligent by our prayers, by our aims, and by our examples, to spread abroad the knowledge of Thy truth, and to enlarge the boundaries of Thy

kingdom. May the love of Christ constrain us, and may we do all to Thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (WALSHAM HOWE.)

USE us then, our Saviour, for whatever purpose, and in whatever way, Thou mayest require. Here are our poor hearts, empty vessels: fill them with Thy grace. Here are our sinful and troubled souls; quicken them and refresh them with Thy love. Take our hearts for Thine abode, our mouths to spread abroad the glory of Thy Name, our love and all our powers for the advancement of Thy believing people; and never suffer the steadfastness and confidence of our faith to abate—that so at all times we may be enabled from the heart to say, Jesus needs us, and we Him. *Amen* (DWIGHT L. MOODY.)

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly; grant us; in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what Thou wouldst have us to do; that the spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in Thy light we may see light, and in Thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(From "A Book of Offices and Prayers.")

A Schoolboy's Prayer

O, GOD give me clean hands, clean words, clean thoughts;
Help me to stand for the hard right against the easy wrong;
Save me from the habits that harm,

Teach me to work as hard and play as fair in Thy
 sight alone as if all the world saw,
 Forgive me when I am unkind and help me to
 forgive those who are unkind to me,
 Keep me ready to help others at some cost to
 myself;
 Send me chances to do good every day and so grow
 more like Him.
 I ask it in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

IX

Family Prayers

GRANT, Almighty God, that we may this day endeavor to be that which Thou wouldst have us to be, and to do that which Thou commandest, listening to the voice of Thy Spirit within us, not leaving one fault unrepented of, one spot in our hearts uncleansed, and sparing least of all that sin with which it costeth us most to part; not looking back but forward, not casting down our eyes to earth, but lifting them up to heaven, not leaning upon mortal man, but upon Thee, the Rock of Ages who standeth fast forever, loving all men, doing good unto all men, loving Thee, and never doubting that Thou lovest us, and wilt make all things work together for good to those who trust in Thee, our Lord, our Father and our God. *Amen.*

WE GIVE Thee thanks, O Lord our God, for the rest we have enjoyed during the night, and for the light of another day. We give Thee thanks for Thy guidance during the week past, for labor and its rewards; for friendship and its enjoyments; and home, with its comfort and love. We are glad of the coming of another day of rest. May this Sabbath remind us of Him who on the first day of the week rose from the dead. May we not forget that this is

His day—and ours to use for Him. We ask for pardon for all past offenses, and for deliverance from all habits of thought, speech and conduct which dishonor Thee. Deliver us from impatience and anger. May we be tender hearted, compassionate and courteous. We thank Thee for the church, and pray Thee to make it a blessing to us, and make us a blessing to it. Bless all ministers and teachers of Thy Word. When the record of this Sabbath ends, may we have nothing to regret—no wasted opportunities, no mis-spent hours. And may we carry with us into the work of the week which is to come an abundance of courage and self-control. Preserve our lives from harm and our hearts from evil. May the Master be our daily Comrade and our constant Guide. For His Name's sake. *Amen.*

BEFORE we go to rest, we would commit ourselves to God's care through Christ, beseeching Him to forgive us for all our sins of this day past, and to keep alive His grace in our hearts, and to cleanse us from all sin, pride, harshness and selfishness, and give us the spirit of meekness, humility, firmness, and love. O Lord, keep Thyself present to us ever, and perfect Thy strength in our weakness. Take us and ours under Thy blessed care this night and evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(THOMAS ARNOLD.)

ALMIGHTY Father, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, we humbly pray Thee to watch over us this night with the eyes of Thy mercy and over all who are near and dear to us. Grant us quiet and refreshing sleep such as may fit us for the duties of the

morrow. Put far away from us all worldly cares and earthly fears, and give us holy thoughts of Thee, that we may repose in perfect peace on the everlasting arms of Thy fatherly love, and whether we wake or sleep, may live together with Him, who died and was buried and rose again for us, Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O ALMIGHTY God, look graciously upon this household as we are now gathered together in Thy Name. Give them whom Thou hast set over it wisdom to direct those committed to their charge; give to all its members strength to fulfil Thy will in the daily work to which Thou hast appointed them; grant that love and peace with all other graces may live and grow among them, and that finally we may meet before Thy throne in heaven, and be united in Thy love for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(EDWARD BENSON, Archbishop of Canterbury.)

BLESS, O God, all the members of this our family and household, especially those who are absent from us. Preserve them waking, guard them in their going out and their coming in, free from sin and safe from danger, and when they sleep may they rest in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Family Prayer Book of the Church of Ireland.)

ETERNAL Ruler of our lives, to Thee, O God, we look up for daily guidance, daily blessing, daily supplies of strength and love, strength to serve in duty, love to make all duty cheerful, willing, and happy. O Lord, give us more of Thy justice, and more of Thy pity for the distressed. Grant us also Thy

peace, Thy tranquillity. Thou sittest above all our storms. Thou art our Divine Shepherd, and we are the sheep of Thy pasture. Thou leadest us by ways which we know not, and often turnest pain into profit, evil into good. Thy power works around us in all the world. O make us conscious of Thy inward Presence, and full of that holy gratitude which causes content and peace. Thou, Lord, art the Rewarder of those that seek Thee, Source of strength, Creator of life and joy, in Whom we live and move and have our being. In Thee let us rejoice, and let Thy joy establish us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(FRANCIS W. NEWMAN.)

O GOD of all mercy, we call to mind before Thy throne of grace all our relations and friends, all for whom we are in duty bound to pray, and all for whom Thou wilt be pleased to hear us. Fill all minds, we beseech Thee, with the knowledge and power of Thy truth, and knit all hearts more closely to Thee and to one another. Arise, O God, and show Thyself the Helper of the helpless, the Light of the blind, the Strength of the weak, the Deliverer of the captive, the Comforter of the mourner, and the Saviour of all that trust in Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, who art the only source of health and healing, the spirit of calm and the central peace of the universe, grant to us, Thy children, such a consciousness of Thy indwelling presence, as may give us utter confidence in Thee. In all pain, and weariness and anxiety may we throw ourselves upon Thy besetting care, that knowing ourselves fenced

about by Thy loving omnipotence, we may permit Thee to give us health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

To THEE, our Father, we commit ourselves this and every day. Guard our homes from hurt and harm; console friends that mourn; recover any that are sick; bless the little children; cheer the aged, the lonely, and careworn; fulfil the hopes of youth; strengthen those who bear the burdens of maturer years, and bring us all at last to Thy heavenly home.

Accept these petitions, and the unspoken prayers of our hearts, which we offer one for another, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

(PROFESSOR ELMSLIE.)

O God, the King Eternal,
Who dividest the day from the darkness,
Drive far from us all wrong desires,
Incline our hearts to keep Thy law,
And guide our feet into the way of peace,
That, having done Thy will with cheerfulness while
it was day, we may, when the night comes,
Rejoice to give Thee thanks.

O LORD God, the day is Thine,
The night also is Thine.
The darkness and the light are both alike to Thee.
Soothe our troubled thoughts and breathe Thy
peace into our restless hearts.
May Thy invisible presence watch over us, and in
the light of a new day may we arise to bless Thee
for Thy sheltering care. *Amen.*

PRESERVE us blameless, O Lord, in our goings out and comings in this day. Fill us with the simplicity of a divine purpose, that we may be inwardly at one with Thy holy will and lifted above vain wishes of our own. Set free from every detaining desire or reluctance, may we heartily surrender all our powers to the work which Thou hast given us to do, rejoicing in any toil and fainting under no hardness that may befall us as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and counting it as our crown of blessing if we may join the company of the faithful who have kept Thy name and witnessed to Thy kingdom in every age. Prepare us to seek our rest, not in outward ease, but in inward devotedness: only fulfil to us the word of the Chief of Saints; leave us His peace, while we remain here, and then receive us unto Thyself, to mingle with the mighty company of our forerunners.
Amen.

(JAMES MARTINEAU.)

X

Particular Intercessions

For the Church

O GOD, we pray for Thy Church, which is set to-day amid the perplexities of a changing order, and face to face with a great task. We remember with love the nurture she gave to our spiritual life in its infancy, the tasks she set for our growing strength, the influence of the devoted hearts she gathers, the steadfast power for good she has exerted. When we compare her with all other human institutions, we rejoice, for there is none like her. But when we judge her by the mind of her Master, we bow in contrition. Oh, baptize her afresh in the life-giving spirit of Jesus! Put upon her lips the ancient gospel of her Lord. Fill her with the prophet's scorn of tyranny, and with a Christlike tenderness for the heavy laden and downtrodden. Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it. Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity, that like her crucified Lord she may mount by the path of the Cross to a higher glory. *Amen.*

(WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.)

Prayers for Christian Homes

ETERNAL Father, in whom every true family on earth is joined together, we thank Thee for Thy love

for us and for all mankind. We are grateful for precious fellowships and especially for those lives which have revealed Thee to us. We give thanks for Thy Spirit in fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and we pray that all these ties may bind us closer to Thee.

We pray for Thy benediction on all true lovers, young and old, and especially upon those who create homes in which Thou art the most honored Guest. May their love be holy and deathless, and may Thy joy be their strength.

For the brightness that comes into homes because of the love of children we now give thanks, and we pray that these lives committed to our care may be built up in all forms of good. May we understand them as we love them, and as members of families may we all be strengthened in one another.

We pray that in spite of the sorrow and darkness of the world Thy true kingdom may grow in our homes. Save us from drifting into loveless ways. Deliver us from confusion of aims, that we may seek first Thy kingdom. Grant Thy help to all families in their particular needs. Where there is distress grant that men may be more merciful; where there is misunderstanding lead Thy children in the way of peace; where there is perplexity be Thou their Guide; where there are heavy burdens give strength day by day; where there is sorrow grant Thy comfort; and where there are offenses may Thy divine example lead to forgiveness.

Teach us to share in Thy holy wrath against all forces which exploit personality and all influences which lead members of families astray. By Thy Holy Son who lived in a humble home may the fam-

ilies of mankind be delivered from evil and shepherded as Thine own, and may Thy blessing be given beyond our ability to ask or think; we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(From the Federal Council of Churches' Program for Mothers' Day.)

ETERNAL and ever loving God, we remember before Thee the weaknesses and sins which so easily come upon us in the relationships of the home; but we remember also in gratitude the depth of Thy mercy and the renewing of that forgiveness which is born of love. We would be strengthened by Thee that our high desires for our homes may have fulfillment and that the richness of Thy love may be embodied in us and our children. We dedicate to Thee the homes with which Thou hast blessed us, our daily life in those homes, our words and deeds, our hopes and ambitions, our hearts and wills, beseeching Thee to transform them with the touch of Thy divine power, and make them a part of Thine eternal purpose for all mankind. *(Ibid.)*

ETERNAL God, from generation to generation Thou hast been the strength and salvation of Thy children. We bless Thee that as Thou art so is Thy love, from everlasting to everlasting. We bow gratefully before Thee as heirs of Thy continuing favor. Breathe into our worship Thy living Spirit; give to our transient and faltering endeavors Thy divine renewing; and grant that faith and hope and love may ever rule the relationships of life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* *(Ibid.)*

For Sufferers

O LORD, who dost feel the pain of the world, look down upon all sick and suffering persons; enfold them with Thy love, that in the midst of pain they may find Thy presence; to doctors and nurses grant tender hearts and healing hands; and give health again in body and soul, for Thy tender mercy's sake. *Amen.*

For the Lonely

O LORD, Thou lover of souls, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, we bring before Thee in our prayers all those who are lonely in the world. Thine they are, and none can pluck them out of Thy hand. In Thy pitiful mercy let our remembrance reach them and comfort their hearts. For Thy love's sake. *Amen.*

For the Heavy Laden

O THOU who art love, and who seest all the suffering, injustice and misery which reign in this world; have pity, we implore Thee, on the work of Thy hands. Look mercifully upon the poor, the oppressed, and all who are heavy laden with error, labor, and sorrow. Fill our hearts with deep compassion for those who suffer, and hasten the coming of Thy kingdom of justice and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(EUGENE BERSIER.)

For Our Young People

O GOD, we praise Thee for renewing Age with the company of Youth. Bless their vision of a New

Time. Grant that they may be strong, that Thy word may abide in them, that they may run a strait race and not be weary, and that they may overcome the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Aged

O THOU, whose years are throughout all generations, and who abidest though all else passes away, we pray for those whose days are far spent. Amid the shadows of evening grant them the vision of Thy glorious morning. Comfort and sustain them. In their evergrowing loneliness, as friend after friend departs, be Thou to them their faithful Companion, the same yesterday, today and forever. Give them a forward look, a joyous faith, and when life's day is ended, grant them to lie down to rest in perfect peace and in the joyous assurance that Thou hast in store for them such good things as pass man's understanding. Hear this our prayer for our Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

(SAMUEL MCCOMB.)

For All Who Serve Human Need

O GOD, we bless Thee for all who give themselves to Thee in service to their fellow men. Grant unto them clear vision, true judgment, with great daring, as they seek to right the wrong; and so endue them with cheerful love that they may minister to the suffering and forlorn, even as Thou wouldest, O Jesus, Lover of Souls. *Amen.*

For the Whole Church

O ETERNAL God, who by Thy Son Jesus Christ didst establish the family of Thy Church in all the world, breathe upon it anew the gifts of Thy Holy Spirit, that, awakening to Thy command, it may go forth in lowly service yet in conquering might to win mankind to the love of Thy Name; through our only Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For the Church's Mission

O GOD our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the gift of Thy dear Son. Grant that we who have received Him in our hearts may joyfully go forth with Him on many errands. Bless those who toil for Thee in far-off places. Comfort them in their loneliness and unite our work to theirs. Accept our gifts, receive our prayers, and use us for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Witnessing Church

GOD, our Shepherd, give to the Church a new vision and a new charity, new wisdom and fresh understanding, the revival of her brightness and the renewal of her unity; that the eternal message of Thy Son, undefiled by the traditions of men, may be hailed as the good news of the new age; through Him who maketh all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For World Peace

ALMIGHTY God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle, we pray Thee, in the

hearts of all men the true love of peace, and guide with Thy strong and peaceful wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity Thy Kingdom may go forward, till the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of Thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Our Country

O LORD of heaven and earth, who leddest our fathers forth, making them to go from one kingdom to another people, we yield Thee hearty thanks for all that Thou didst for them and art doing for the land to which they came. May we always remember them in Thee, and be grateful to them through Thee. We remember that their communion was to eat their bread in exile, their sacrament was to pour out their blood for others. We remember them not only as valiant in fight, but as wise in council, not only as brave warriors but as far-seeing statesmen and incorruptible patriots. And we give Thee thanks for them. We remember those of a later day, who spared not their lives that our land might be one, patriots of the newer time, prophets and martyrs of our country's unity. And we give Thee thanks for them. And we pray that we may follow their good examples and bequeath to our children a nation worthy of such founders and preservers, meet to do Thy will, a kingdom subject completely to Thee and to Thy Christ. *Amen.*

(From "A Book of Offices and Prayers.")

ALMIGHTY GOD, who settest the solitary in families, and families in nations, and nations in the com-

mon bond of humanity, we invoke Thy blessing on our land and our people. Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from thoughtless content with ourselves and from narrow contempt for others. Give us to see that we are all bound up in the same bundle of life together, and that the weal of one nation must be the care of all. Widen the boundaries of our thought. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

For National Unity

REMEMBER, O Lord, the nation to which we belong, that in righteousness and truth we may be established. Extend, for Thy mercies' sake, Thy blessing to this our land, that within this realm of divers races, peace may reign and prosperity, and the blessing of the Lord which maketh rich with more than temporal good, with love of right and justice. Help us better to understand and love those who are of a different race or color from ourselves, remembering that we are all members of the one family. Overcome in us any want of charity, any obliquity, any manner of prejudice, by Thy more abounding goodness and lovingkindness. May our agreements be greater than our differences, and may our unity in Thee sanctify all our natural diversities of opinion. Reconcile all nationalities and peoples to one another and to Thee; and grant that there may be open ways and peace and freedom from end to end of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(From Prayers for Services, by MORGAN PHELPS NOYES.)

XI

Prayers During Lent

O THOU Source of all our life, we thank Thee for the Gospel record, for its sure testimony of Thy purpose to redeem men. We bless Thee for Thy life in Jesus Christ, Thy Son, through Whom we know Thee as our Father. We earnestly entreat Thee to work out in our lives Thine own redemptive purpose, making us true children of God by the dominance of Thy life in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD our Father, we thank Thee for the revelation of Thy redeeming power in Jesus Christ; for His unfolding life in infancy, boyhood and fulness of man's estate. We thank Thee especially for His embodiment of true manhood as teacher, physician and preacher, and that in this life of service He disclosed Thy love to man, bringing hope to the hopeless, and Thy redemption to the nations of the earth. Enable us, O Lord, to follow in the way where Christ leads; for His own name's sake, we ask it. *Amen.*

ABBA Father, we are grateful Thou hast come so near to us in Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and hast laid Thine hand upon us in His fond embrace; and we

ask Thee, Father, that in the beauty of His way with us, and the music of His voice, we may know Thee truly as our Friend in heaven, and may love to be Thy friends on earth and make Thee glad. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

O God of Love, we open our hearts to welcome Christ as our Redeemer. We prefer Him above all others. May His presence be with us, bringing true happiness through loyal life and faithful service to God and man. As we love and labor, grant to us an increasing sense of fellowship with Thee. Since our redemption is of the spirit, reveal Thyself increasingly to the hearts of Thy children; that we may serve Thee as we ought to serve, for we would abide in Thee, O God, through Christ. *Amen.*

O God our Father, we yearn to follow Christ our Redeemer in true self-denial; in compelling love of men; in unflinching service and in love of neighbor not less than that of self. To this end unite our hearts with Thy life, O God, in heartfelt prayer. Make our lives fruitful, and grant that Thy justice and mercy may abide with all Thy children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, we thank Thee for the life of Jesus Christ; that He lived His divine life among men, ministering to their needs and showing them the way of life. Open our eyes that we may see Him; enlighten our understanding that we may know Him and strengthen our wills that we may follow Him. Unite Thy people in fellowship through prayer. May we be refreshed in the inner Life, be

purified by Thy cleansing power and blessed by the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

For Palm Sunday

O God, who withheld not from Thy Son, in the days of His flesh, some hours of gladness, some previsions of His eventual victory, give us, we pray, a part in the chorus of praise which greeted Him as He entered the City. We take our places with the throng that welcomed Him, the children that greeted Him as King. He is our King. Not yet does the world acknowledge Him as Lord, but many are the hearts that open to His approach, and the homes in which He is an honored guest. We give Thee thanks, our Father, for the gift of Christ and for His conquering grace. *Amen.*

For Good Friday

MERCIFUL Jesus, who wast lifted up upon the Cross that Thou mightest draw all men unto Thee, have mercy upon Thy sinful servants and draw them closer to Thyself through the power of Thy blessed Cross. O dear Redeemer, we are still too far from Thee. We ask Thee with all our hearts to draw us nearer. We would be drawn nearer to Thee in *faith*, learning to know better the precious teaching of the Cross. We would be drawn nearer to Thee in *love*, loving Thee better for Thine infinite love to us. We would be drawn nearer to Thee in *likeness*, copying the pattern of Thy perfect meekness and patience. Draw us, O merciful Saviour, lifted up from the earth upon the Cross,—draw us with the strong

cords of Thy love; embrace us with the outstretched arms of Thy compassion; and through all trials and temptations, in all times of weakness and of danger, keep us close to Thee, and suffer us not to go from Thee; for Thine infinite mercies' sake, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

(From "A Book of Offices and Prayers.")

DELIVER us, O Lord, from untimely sorrow when what we love seems lost or what we hope for defeated. Teach us anew to believe and wait. We praise Thee for the unconquerable power of every life in which Thy spirit dwells and every cause blessed of Thee. And especially we bless Thee for the gift of Thy love in Jesus Christ our Lord in whom love and hope find their timeless assurance. In His Name who made the tomb an open road. *Amen.*

WE ADD to our prayers, O God, the thanksgiving of our hearts that we have found such a pathway as this to the everlasting Burden-bearer. We thank Thee, our Father, that the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world is the testimony to the fact that Thou hast put Thine own strength under our burden. We rejoice in the tenderness with which Thou hast carried this burden in the person of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, through the Garden of Gethsemane, up the steps of Calvary, into the grave of Joseph of Arimathea, to Olivet and to Heaven.

Make us grateful men and women this morning that beneath everything else Thou hast borne our iniquities and below all else in the uttermost dark-

ness Thou art carrying our burden. Make our lives sacred this morning by the help and influence of Him who died that we might have life and life more abundantly, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

(FRANK W. GUNSAULUS.)

ABBA Father, who of Thy holy tenderness hast come to us in fashion as a man and in the Son of Mary hast laid Thy life beside the least on earth, we pray that, being drawn to Him uplifted on the Cross, we may know the truth of the losing and the finding of His life in Thee, and so be constrained to lose our life that we may find it in Thine Everlasting Joy. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Saviour. *Amen.*

(JAMES ROBERTSON CAMERON.)

ABBA Father, who hast commended Thine own love toward us in the Gospel of Thy Holy Son and Servant, Jesus Christ, we lift our hearts in praise, remembering His courage and His gentleness, and His perfect self-devotion, both in life and death, and we pray that, like the watchers of His Passion, who stood afar off gazing at the Cross, we may be so moved by the beauty of His patience and the wonder of His grace, that we may grieve with godly sorrow over sin and be filled with the peace that hallows every contrite heart. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

(*Ibid.*)

For Easter

ALMIGHTY God, we give Thee thanks for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. By His overcoming deliver us from the fear of death and

quicken within us that undying life which He calls us to share with Him. Help us so to live in His spirit that daily we may pass from death of the soul into eternal life: through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(WILLARD L. SPERRY.)

ALMIGHTY God, who art the Life and Light Eternal, who hast given us our Lord, Jesus Christ, to make Easter Day a perpetual prophecy that life shall outlast death, that the rewards of life are divinely given, we pray Thee, as we enter upon this service, that the Easter light may shine in every heart, that always and everywhere we may look up to Thee and especially at this moment may we see Thee the Author of light, Redeemer of life, the Sanctifier of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

(FRANK W. GUNSAULUS.)

O THOU risen and ever-living Christ, we praise Thee that Thou hast brought life and immortality to light. Having known Thee in the flesh, may we not lose Thee in the light which is inaccessible. Keep alive in us the assurance that Thou art with us always, even unto the end of the world. *Amen.*

(CHARLES E. JEFFERSON.)

WE PRAISE Thee, in whom is the fountain of life that Thou hast brought life and immortality to light through Jesus Christ. Grant unto us even amongst the shadows of this present life to take from Thy hand a new and endless life. Comfort all who mourn with the Easter comfort and grant this day that whatever of love or goodness in our lives has seemed buried beyond hope, may rise again with Thy Son

in beauty and in power. In His Name who is the Resurrection and the Life. *Amen.*

(GAIUS GLENN ATKINS.)

OH GOD, source of the Life Eternal we are permitted to share, Fountain of the Light in whose radiance we are privileged to live, deliver us, we pray Thee, from bondage to our dead selves and from the rock-bound tomb of our feeble faith and grant us the grace and the courage to follow the Risen Christ into newness of life that we may be able, through His Spirit, to build a new world wherein dwell righteousness and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(RAYMOND C. BROOKS.)

O THOU that turnest the shadow of death into the morning, on this day of days our hearts exult with heavenly joy. All things conspire to make us sure of Thee: the gracious sunshine, the stir of springtime, the morning rapture of the birds; but greater far, a secret thrill runs through the air from far-off days.

Easter day breaks! Christ rises! Mercy every way is infinite.

The clouds are vanished from the sky, doubts are driven from the mind, Thou hast conquered our last enemy, and our tongues are filled with singing. Pain has been our portion here, but now we know that in all pain there lies the promise of redemption. Thou dost plan our lives to cross the valley of Humiliation, to climb the hill Difficulty, and then at last descend where waits the shadow feared by man. But now we know it is a shadow only. The grim-barred gates of death swing back, and the glory from an

endless world shines through, beyond the mind's imagining, beyond our hearts' desire. Our Jesus now is crowned with glory, clothed in victory, and vested with the keys of death and hell.

Praise be unto Thee, O Lord most high. *Amen.*

(W. E. ORCHARD.)

WE ADORE Thee, O Christ, Son of the living God, who didst rise in great triumph from the grave, and didst bear in Thy pierced Hands the keys of hell and death. We rejoice, O Lord our God, in Thy almighty power and glory. Raise Thou us up with Thee, O blessed Saviour, above all earthly desires. Inspire us with thoughts of joy, of hope, and love. Enter Thou within the chamber of our hearts and say unto us, "Peace be unto you." Give us the grace to see Thee, Blessed Saviour, the eyes of our understanding being enlightened, that we may know Thee walking by our side, in this our earthly pilgrimage. Come unto us, O our Lord, and dwell within us. Abide with us through our night of weeping. Make Thyself known to us in the Breaking of Bread. Teach us, O blessed Lord God most High, to look and see Thee beyond this dark, tempestuous sea, standing on the everlasting shore of peace; and suffer us to come unto Thee through the waters. Give us grace, O Lord our God, to arise with Thee, to leave all for Thee, that we may be made like unto Thee, that we may follow Thee, O Thou Blessed Lamb of God, whithersoever Thou goest. *Amen.*

(From "Treasury of Devotion.")

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